

TURDAY, JULY 23, 1994

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U.N. installs spy cameras in Iraq

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.N. arms inspectors have established a grid of 50 spy cameras across Iraq in a one-of-a-kind operation to forestall any attempts by Baghdad to acquire long-range missiles, the official in charge said Saturday. "Nothing comes close to it. It covers an entire country," said Guy Martelle, the American whose 20-member multinational team of experts installed the system over the past three weeks. "It is one of a kind, the largest and first of its kind in the world," he said. Martelle spoke to reporters in Bahrain at the regional headquarters of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of demilitarising Iraq of all weapons of mass destruction. He said the monitoring system was tailored specifically for Iraq by one of the U.N. member nations, but did not identify the country. The United States has contributed the most experts and expertise to the U.N. operation launched with the cease-fire that followed the Gulf war in April 1991. Dr. Martelle said the grid laid by his team used 20 tonnes of equipment, including cameras that were installed at 15 sites, 66,000 metres of cables, scores of sensors and a 94-metre mast.

Jordan Times

An independent daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Gambian military seizes power

DAKAR (AP) — Muteinous Gambian soldiers proclaimed a military government Saturday, and the elected president of Africa's smallest nation took shelter on a U.S. warship. The four lieutenants who proclaimed themselves the new government of the West African nation said that no blood was shed. They suspended the constitution and political parties and declared a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew. Senegal, which completely surrounds sliver-like Gambia and intervened to put down a coup in 1981, put its military on alert and moved some troops to positions on the border. Gambian soldiers who had served in a peacekeeping mission in Liberia, apparently protesting lack of pay, seized the airport and a nearby station in Banjul, the national capital, on Friday. Broadcasts Saturday announced the formation of a provisional council of the armed forces, headed by four lieutenants identified only as Yahya Jammeh, Sadiq Hydar, F.D. Sabaly and I. Signateh. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarthy said Gambia's president, Sir Dawda Jawara, was aboard the tank-landing ship USS La Moure County.

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Cholera cases spread in Aden

ADEN (Agencies) — Cholera has spread in Aden and 17 of 150 infected residents have died in the last three days in the southern Yemeni city hit by water and food shortages stemming from the two-month civil war.

Aden's mayor said that entrance to the city would remain sealed off for another week to enforce security as its residents recover from looting and shortages after two months of civil war.

Northern Yemeni troops opened fire on protesters in the southeastern port city of Mukalla, killing and wounding several people, a Western diplomat said.

A northern Yemeni official spokesman later denied the report.

The diplomat said hundreds of southern Yemenis had gathered Thursday to protest against "the massive presence of northern troops" in the city, 700 kilometres east of Aden.

Northern troops opened fire and "the shots caused casualties among the demonstrators," the source said, without giving exact figures.

The northern spokesman, quoted by the official news agency SABA, said the report was "totally groundless."

"The situation in Hadramawt province is calm and the armed forces are posted in their barracks. They are not in the city" of Mukalla, capital of Hadramawt, he said.

Mukalla, the second largest city in southern Yemen with 130,000 residents, was captured by northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on July 4.

Southern breakaway leader Ali Salem Al Beidh was born in the city, and moved his headquarters there from Aden shortly after civil war broke out on May 5. He fled to Oman when Mukalla fell.

Mr. Saleh's troops seized control of Aden on July 7, ending the war.

Doctors at Aden's hospitals told government officials the first cholera cases appeared on Thursday night, and up to 17 people have died since.

They said 15 cases were reported on Thursday night, jumping to 90 by Friday and to 150 on Saturday and that some people were dying at home before being taken to hospitals.

Aden, where the population swelled to half a million from 350,000 before the civil war, has been without fresh water or food for most of the fighting.

Its residents gather daily at scores of wells for untreated and mostly dirty water and doctors and international relief officials had warned of a spread of diseases in the city, where summer temperatures are at 40 degrees Celsius.

One family held a funeral on Saturday for a 40-year-old mother and her daughter, 24, who died of cholera. The woman's 18-year-old son was in serious condition in hospital.

"There are fears of the disease spreading if clean water and basic medical supplies are not provided soon," Jameel Thabet, a health ministry official told Reuters.

Meanwhile Mayor Taha Ahmad Ghanem said in a statement that he is restricting entry to Aden to residents, relief workers, ambulances and food convoys starting on Saturday until July 29.

Yemen's government on July 17 sealed off Aden's entrances for one week to crack down on lawlessness.

Mr. Ghanem said the decision was extended due to food, power and water shortages and so that travellers will not disturb peace and security.

Beirut probes blast claims, but sceptical

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese security investigators but was sceptical on Saturday of a little known group's claim that it carried out a bombing in Buenos Aires which killed 100 people at a Jewish centre.

Security forces in the southern port of Sidon were looking for members of the Ansarallah — "Supporters of God" group that issued a statement late on Friday also claiming bombing of a Panamanian plane, killing all 21 people on board, security sources said.

They said the tiny group is led by Jamal Suleiman, a fundamentalist Palestinian guerrilla officer who broke away from the mainstream Fatah movement in South Lebanon in 1991.

They said they did not believe Suleiman's followers had the ability or expertise to carry out the bombings and said that the statement appeared to be a hoax.

The sources described the statement that was published in Beirut's Al Nahar newspaper on Saturday as vague and failing to clearly claim the attacks.

"The faithful forces have

formed suicidal units ... that have begun working to restore the Islamic and Arab dignity ... and have vowed to battle and confront Zionism everywhere," the statement said. "The operations in Argentina and Panama are only a proof."

The Buenos Aires bomb went off on Monday and the Panamanian plane crashed on Tuesday.

An Israeli cabinet minister said Israel should assassinate the perpetrators of the bombing in Argentina.

"There is no room in fighting terror for due process of law," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told Israel Radio.

"If there is positive identification of a terrorist ... he should get his due: aim at him and finish him off at short range, to prevent his next act."

Mr. Sarid, generally an outspoken proponent of peace with the Arabs, said his comments represent the "overall view" of the cabinet.

Monday's bomb blast in Buenos Aires claimed at least 43 lives. Dozens are feared missing under the ruins of the seven-storey building.

Israel has accused Iran of

being behind the group.

Mr. Sarid was asked to elaborate on Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' statement that "we won't be restrained until the last of the perpetrators is buried."

The South American attacks were seen as revenge for Israeli actions in Lebanon. Israel bombed a base of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah movement last month, killing 50. It recently kidnapped Mustafa Dirani, a Hizbollah leader.

Mr. Sarid said he would not be concerned even if Israelis unconnected to the secret services carried out revenge attacks.

Argentina's President Carlos Menem has said members of Israel's Mossad secret service were already in Argentina investigating the bombing.

The Mossad is known to have assassinated 12 planners of the killings of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. At least one innocent was also mistakenly killed, and critics charged the campaign harmed Israel's international standing.

Mr. Sarid was joined by

(Continued on page 12)

Sharaa says Israel seeking to split Arabs, separate deals

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa accused Israel Saturday of trying to split Arab ranks and strike separate peace deals, but said Syria's position on the Middle East peace process remained unchanged.

Speaking to reporters in Beirut, Mr. Sharaa said some of the Arab parties to the talks had "abandoned coordination," but "this does not affect the Syrian or Lebanese tracks" of the peace process.

He was referring to the accords Israel has reached with the Palestinians and Jordan.

Mr. Sharaa accused Israel of "an attempt ... to split the Arab parties" to prevent them coordinating among each other.

Israel's negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan "do not gain real public support, whether in the Palestinian arena or Jordanian," Mr. Sharaa asserted.

But the position of Syria was not affected, he added.

Mr. Sharaa said the moves so far on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks of the peace process could "not achieve real stability in the region"

and might ignite trouble in future.

Earlier Mr. Sharaa briefed Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus, and handed him a message from Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

He said the results of Mr. Christopher's talks in Syria ending Friday were "serious" and had led to "a better understanding of the Syrian position."

Syria stood by the principles and basis of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991, Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Christopher ended a five-day shuttle mission between Syria and Israel on Friday with no sign of a breakthrough in their stalled negotiations.

Damascus has constantly updated Beirut after each visit by Mr. Christopher. The two countries are linked by a treaty of friendship, cooperation and coordination signed in May 1991, and each says it will not sign a peace treaty with Israel without the other.

Syria demands that Israel first give a pledge to withdraw completely from all occupied Arab territory, in-

cluding the strategic Golan Heights. However, Israel wants Syria to commit itself first to full peace with open borders.

Syrian newspapers said Saturday that a public statement by Israel expressing readiness to withdraw from the Golan and South Lebanon would help break a deadlock in peace talks.

It said President Assad had told Mr. Christopher that Syria was ready to discuss steps to help achieve a breakthrough, but efforts should not be one-sided.

Government newspapers said Mr. Christopher had decided to return to the region soon as a result of Mr. Assad's offer.

Mr. Christopher visited Syria and Israel twice during the past week before returning to Washington on Friday.

He told reporters on his plane that the two countries had moved beyond "psychological testing" of each other and were well into concrete details of an accord on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Mr. Christopher said he had promised to return to the Middle East in early August

Israel, PLO to hold talks on implementing economic deal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel will begin talks on implementing their economic accord in the Jericho self-rule area on Sunday, officials from both sides said.

Ahmad Qouriea, (Abu Alaa), member of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in charge of trade and economics, said the meeting would be held in the joint Israeli-PLO liaison offices in Jericho.

"During the Palestinian National Authority meeting in Gaza today an economic committee was named and it was decided that talks on setting procedures to implement the economic accord would start on Sunday," Mr. Qouriea told Reuters.

Elisheva Braun, spokeswoman for Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat, said the meeting of the joint economic committee "will be the first between Minister Shohat and Abu Alaa since they signed an economic agreement in Paris."

Mr. Shohat and Mr. Qouriea signed an economic accord in Paris in April detailing relations between the Palestinian and Israeli economies.

Another PLO official said Sunday's meeting would deal with 32 items that needed to be resolved before actual implementation of the agreement began.

"The meeting is aimed at setting procedures for implementation of the economic accord and we may demand some amendments, particularly those related to the import policy from Arab states," said the official, who did not want to be named.

He said the items to be discussed included implementation follow-up procedures, import and export policies, customs clearance, the number and rights of Palestinian labourers working in Israel, and a Palestinian currency for the self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Qouriea said funds pledged by international donors and the World Bank

for the Palestinian authority "would be implemented according to the PLO's agreement with the World Bank which took place in Washington last month."

Another PLO official said this meant introducing a system of "transparency which would lead to the disbursement of funds committed by international donors but that had been delayed by the Palestinians' lack of transparency."

"We had agreed in Washington on a priority list of projects for the development of the Palestinian economy in the fields of technical assistance and investment," the official said.

During its meeting on Sunday, the PNA endorsed an operational plan to be implemented by the year's end, officials said.

One official said the 17 members approved a programme outlining the work of each department in the self-rule administration.

(Continued on page 12)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor alight from their plane early Wednesday at Washington's Andrews Air Force Base (Petra wirephoto)

King, Queen arrive in Washington

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Washington Saturday morning — ahead of the King's landmark meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday.

The King and Queen were accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Sheker, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasem, and Jordan's Ambassador to the United States Fayez Tarawneh.

The King and Queen and

the accompanying delegation were received at Andrews Air Force Base by their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Princess Ghida, senior officials of the American administration, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, other senior officials and heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Washington.

The King and Mr. Rabin will meet under the auspices of President Bill Clinton on Monday. Both leaders will address a joint session of the U.S. Congress on Tuesday.

Information Minister

Jawad Anani said meanwhile that it was agreed on during all meetings of the Arab parties involved in the peace talks with Israel that peace should be the final objective of these talks despite varying paces on the different tracks.

Dr. Anani noted that any peace settlement would aim at restoring occupied Arab lands and said that was still too early for a peace treaty with Israel.

In an interview with the Paris-based Al Watan Al Arabi magazine, Dr. Anani said the degree of acceptance of the peace process was in-

creasing and that there were indications that moving towards peace should be looked at as an irreversible process instead of being motivated by fear or intimidation.

He pointed out that the internal affairs of each Arab country should be respected through the understanding of each country's special nature.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. Anani said that Jordan views these relations with the objective of restoring occupied Palestinian land and seeing the Palestinian people enjoying their full national rights on their national soil.

Princess Basma urges new human development strategy

STOCKHOLM (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has called for adopting policies and strategies to attend sustainable human development. These strategies are: the eradication of illiteracy through free and compulsory education, improving the status of women, and a balance between needs and resources.

Princess Basma said in an address at the first plenary session of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) here that "although limited development finance and aid is available, it is not distributed in the most fair or ideal way among people and nations as well as between competing projects. Expensive infrastructural projects get the lion's share of investment and development aid not only because of the prestigious nature of such projects but also because they allow donor countries to export their products and services."

The Princess said: "Power

stations, telecommunications and weapons are favoured over schools."

"Higher education is advanced at the expenses of primary education. Such aid policies, which we have been witnessing for decades, do not lead to sustainable human development."

She said that human development is a balanced development in which the two genders participate with equal opportunity.

"However, until now, in most developing nations, women are still far behind," she noted.

"Respect for human rights is an integral part of sustainable human development processes," she said. "No where is respect for human rights more essential and needed than it is for women. Respect for women's rights is equal opportunities as well as the enhancement of their abilities is a prerequisite for sustainable human development. Without it, development remains only partial, as



in the case of most developing countries."

Princess Basma pointed out that in this decade of great political transition "we must turn our attention inward and try to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, the illiterate and the literate, abundance and scarcity; and last but not least, the opportunities available to men and women."

The princess called upon nations to "realise the extent and limitations of their resources which included natural as well as other resources. For such limitations pose

constraints on development, both economic and demographic."

More than 100 international intellectuals, journalists, academics, and businessmen from 48 countries are taking part in the Stockholm conference in addition to a number of U.N. officials.

Princess Basma was chosen last year as the U.N. honorary ambassador for human development affairs in appreciation of her efforts in the field of human development especially in the field of child, woman and rural development.

Kim Il-Jong wants to meet Clinton

BEIJING (Agencies) — North Korea's new leader-designate Kim Jong-Il wants to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton and insists that a summit between the two Koreas should go ahead, South Korean publisher Pak Bo-Hi said here Saturday.

Mr. Pak, who had a private meeting with Mr. Kim in Pyongyang Wednesday, said the son of late North Korean President Kim Il-Sung had also made it clear that pledges made in June by his father to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter — including a freeze on the North's nuclear programme — remained in effect.

Mr. Kim expressed thanks for Mr. Clinton's message of condolences on the death of his father, and said he was looking forward to meeting the U.S. president "some day." Mr. Pak told reporters here after returning from an 11-day stay in North Korea.

According to Mr. Pak, Mr. Kim also made it clear during their 45-minute meeting that a first-ever North-South summit, originally scheduled for July 25-27, would go ahead and "follow already agreed upon arrangements," although he did not specify the new date.

Mr. Pak said other high-level North Korean leaders had also expressed keen anticipation of a future summit, the fate of which had been left in considerable doubt following the death of Kim Il-Sung on July 8.

The pledges made to Mr. Carter by the late leader included an undertaking to freeze the North's nuclear programme and a resumption of high-level talks with Washington.

Mr. Pak, whose visit to the North could land him a jail term if he returns to South Korea, is president and publisher of the South Korean

newspaper Segye Times, secretary general of the Federation for World Peace (FWP), and a leading member of Reverend Moon Sun-Myeong's Unification Church, which has links with Pyongyang.

Mr. Pak was in Beijing when he received an invitation to visit the North and travelled from here for what was an extremely rare meeting with Kim Jong-Il, who is usually inaccessible to visitors from outside North Korea.

Mr. Kim had appeared extremely confident during their meeting, Mr. Pak said, adding that all indications from other North Korean officials he spoke to were that he was firmly in control.

Mr. Pak said he raised the question of when Mr. Kim would officially be proclaimed president with North Korean Vice Premier Kim Young-Nam, who in reply said only: "It will come."

The vice premier indicated that the announcement had been delayed as a result of the mourning period for Mr. Kim's father.

Mr. Pak said he had seen no sign of a succession struggle and every high-ranking official he met, including in the military, had voiced complete loyalty to Mr. Kim.

Antonio Betancourt, who is deputy secretary general of the FWP and accompanied Mr. Pak to Pyongyang said that North Korean officials had indicated to him that a message of condolences on Kim Il-Sung's death from the South would help secure the future of a North-South summit.

"They strongly hinted that in order to move the summit on, they expected some condolences from South Korea," Mr. Betancourt said.

Israel still looking for key to open talks with Damascus

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ministers favour returning all the Golan Heights to Syria in return for peace, but Israel is still looking for the key to open talks with Damascus.

Hopes raised ahead of the latest shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher were dashed once again.

And those ministers, who publicly stress that only strong superpower intervention can break the deadlock, are saying in private that Mr. Christopher looks increasingly unlikely to deliver.

In Syria too, the United States got a rough ride as the official press poured out scorn, saying Washington bore twice as much responsibility for the stalemate as Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that not only was there no sign of an end to the impasse, despite the week-long diplomatic blitz, but not even any talks in the pipeline.

"Unless we establish the right method I wonder if we can make an agreement on the content," he said.

It was the foreign minister who sparked optimism when he declared a couple of days before Mr. Christopher arrived in the region that Israel recognised Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

That first public recognition followed a series of statements by ministers that peace would never be achieved unless all the plateau was handed back.

Even the cautious Rabin has implied that Israel will

return the strategic heights he seized as chief of staff in the 1967 war.

He repeats ad nauseam that the size of Israel's withdrawal depend on the size of the peace, that Israel is prepared for "very painful" decisions.

During the secretary's trip Mr. Rabin declared: "With Syria we expect to follow the path we took with Egypt."

While he was directly referring to a phased withdrawal from the Sinai desert completed in 1982, the example of Egypt is remembered above all in Israel for the total withdrawal from every last grain of sand.

But two trips by Mr. Christopher to Damascus, a day in Jordan three days in Israel produced no apparent change.

Mr. Rabin will not go all the way and state plainly that he will withdraw from all the Golan unless Syria says it is prepared for total peace with open borders and diplomatic and trade ties.

"I cannot go to the Israeli public without a clear commitment from Syria," Mr. Rabin told Mr. Christopher, according to a minister.

"When Peres recognised Syrian sovereignty he threw up a bat for Christopher to smash home in Syria," a senior official told AFP. "But he has failed to do so," he moaned.

The secretary simply described the Peres statement as "very courageous."

"Christopher cannot get the commitment out of Syria," said the minister, who refused to be named.

Several ministers pine for the days of tough-talking James Baker who banged on the table and dragged Israel's Premier Yitzhak Shamir to the peace table for a process he did not want in October 1991.

"Today we don't know the U.S. position on Syria because we have not heard it," complained one of the Israeli participants in the last round of talks. "Baker would announce the president's position and we knew that was it."

"With Syria we need a muscular mediation and that just doesn't exist."

Rumours in the United States that Mr. Christopher's days in office are numbered have done little to strengthen his image in Israel.

Official confidence that the start of treaty negotiations with Jordan following the launch of Palestinian self-rule would draw in Syria has yet to prove well-founded.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak seems to think he has a chance and announced he was also taking the road to Damascus.

"I am going very soon to Damascus to persuade President Assad to adopt a new approach to try to solve the problems with the Israelis," he told Friday's Yedioth Aharanot newspaper.

"The time has come to look to the example of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians and to undertake direct and public negotiations with Israel."

Mr. Peres said Mr. Mubarak would visit Damascus on Sunday.



FREED ENVOYS: Omani Ambassador to Algeria Hissal Al Siyabi (left) and his Yemeni counterpart Ali Askar are seen Saturday at the Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministry after they were freed by security forces the day before. The two ambassadors and two others disappeared on July 15 in the Islamic stronghold of Khennis Al Khechne, east of the Algerian capital (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Sudan rebels, Kenyans welcome ceasefire

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Sudanese rebels and Kenyan mediators welcomed as a step forward Friday's ceasefire declaration by the Sudanese government.

A statement broadcast on state Radio Omdurman said the unilateral ceasefire took effect at midnight on Saturday (2200 GMT) in response to a call from Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the mainstream rebel group led by John Garang, said the declaration should be followed by a genuine end to hostilities on the battlefronts in the south.

"It is good news. But we know previously such ceasefires were declared but fighting continued on the ground. It is up to the government to

follow its intentions with positive action," an SPLA spokesman said.

He was speaking from a secret location outside Nairobi where government and rebel teams have been meeting since Tuesday when Mr. Moi opened what he said were last-chance peace negotiations.

"It is wonderful news. I sincerely hope it will give the talks the necessary impetus to build on to a point where we may have some sort of agreement," a Kenyan official told Reuters.

Negotiators, who declined to be identified, said the talks had not produced tangible progress but both sides were reviewing the success of a humanitarian agreement signed last May.

The government and rebel

teams were exploring how the pact could be followed by political commitments, they said.

"At the moment there is not even a clear agenda. It is all still exploratory," said a Sudanese official.

Friday's move aimed to provide proof of the government's serious desire for peace, the Khartoum statement said, adding the government was willing to take a risk even though the southern rebels had used past truces to plant mines.

The inter-Sudanese peace talks are being sponsored by the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), currently chaired by Kenya.

The decision to call a ceasefire coincided with the start

of the rainy season, which is set to restrict the movement of government troops in the south.

The Sudanese authorities have expressed willingness to meet rebel representatives in African and Western capitals to reach a lasting peace accord, but accused the rebels of preferring to loot U.N. relief and continue fighting rather than seek a peaceful resolution of the civil war.

The presidency underlined the fact the government is declaring the ceasefire unilaterally and praised the IGADD peace initiative.

Friday's statement added the Sudanese government was committed to stopping the "bloodletting" and restoring peace to the country, wracked by unrest since a military coup in June 1989.

British and U.S. firms cooperate on Kuwait sale

KUWAIT (R) — Two British and American firms with large Kuwaiti arms contracts will cooperate on providing training and spare parts for tanks and armoured cars they will deliver in coming years, one of the firms said.

Analysts said the move by Britain's GKN Defence and America's General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) was a rare example of companies from rival trading nations cooperating to create savings and efficiencies in a highly competitive market.

Under an agreement signed on Monday by GKN Defence of Telford, England, a unit of engineering group GKN and GDLS, a division of arms manufacturer General Dynamics, the two firms also agreed jointly to look for opportunities to provide general logistical support for other weapons used by Kuwait's military, GKN said in a statement.

Kuwait last year bought 254 desert warrior armoured fighting vehicles from GKN Defence for about \$900 million and 218 M-1A2 Abrams main battle tanks from GDLS for about \$2 billion.

Deliveries of both orders, expected to start next year, are likely to take several years.

An industry analyst said the agreement meant the two firms would consult each other to try to identify efficiencies and savings that might be made in delivering their vehicles, supplying spares and training and providing other services.

"It's not totally unprecedented — I'm sure there have been multinational agreements like this elsewhere," an industry analyst

said. "But only a year ago, the nations these two companies represent were in a highly competitive situation. It shows the maturity of the companies involved."

Major defence sales, especially the sale of Desert Warrior, was marked by intense British-American competition.

The orders were among the largest Kuwait has placed for weapons since a U.S.-led multinational alliance ended Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of the emirate.

Kuwait has been the world's biggest spender of defence in per capita terms and as a percentage of national wealth since its 1991 liberation from Iraqi occupation, when its military plant and equipment was looted or destroyed, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

But diplomats have expressed concern that Kuwaiti officials may not have appreciated the extent of training and preparation required to use and service the multimillion-dollar tanks and armoured vehicles.

Some have expressed concern that Kuwaiti defence planners may not have allocated sufficient funds to cover sales support such as depots, hangers and new roads.

"Under the agreement signed on 18 July, GKN and GDLS have agreed to ensure the successful introduction into service and support of each other's products and to cooperate to provide the best overall logistic support for all KLF (Kuwaiti land forces) forces and equipment," a GKN statement said.

Kurdish factions settle differences

NICOSIA (AP) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish factions Saturday announced they had resolved the problems that plunged their self-governing enclave in northern Iraq into fratricidal strife two months ago.

A joint communiqué issued by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said that "a comprehensive settlement" of their differences was agreed during talks in Paris last week. A copy of the communiqué was faxed to the Associated Press in Nicosia.

"The root causes of the Kurdish conflict were addressed and both sides agreed that all outstanding problems be resolved through peaceful and democratic means," the communiqué added.

Hundreds of Kurds were reported killed in a civil war that raged in May between the two parties which jointly ruled the enclave. A ceasefire has been generally holding since early June, despite minor clashes following appeals by both party leaders to their followers.

The autonomous region was established by the U.S.-led alliance at the end of the 1991 Gulf war to protect 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds.

The enclave continues to be protected by U.S. British and French warplanes based in neighbouring Turkey.

The communiqué said the talks were attended by senior delegations from the two parties, without naming them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin woos religious party into coalition

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised to gain majority backing in Israel's parliament for his Israeli-Arab peace efforts when his Labour party initiated a memorandum on Friday with the ultra-orthodox Shas party. "It is important to create a parliamentary majority as big and stable as possible relative to the problems still facing us," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio after the Labour-Shas deal was signed in Tel Aviv. Shas's six members would give Mr. Rabin the support of 65 seats in the 120-member parliament, his first majority since taking office two years ago. Yeud, a small right-wing party with three seats, signed an agreement with Labour earlier this month. Shas, which left Mr. Rabin's government before last September's Palestinian autonomy deal, said it would support his Middle East peace moves. It also secured a pledge from Labour that current religious legislation would remain intact.

Groups oppose Shawa as municipal head

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Four Palestinian opposition groups on Saturday called for the resignation of Awn Al Shawa, chosen by Yasser Arafat to form a municipal council in Gaza, in order to "preserve national unity." In a statement issued Saturday, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, the Democratic and People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) and Islamic Jihad called on Mr. Shawa "not to play the game of Palestinian autonomy and to resign." Mr. Shawa was chosen last week to form the municipal council. His cousin Mansour Al Shawa who was originally chosen stepped down after Mr. Arafat rejected his proposed list of council members, which included fundamentalist opponents. The statement said that "Palestinians will not remain indifferent if Shawa continues to play along with the authority and ignore the positions of the diverse movements" among Palestinians. The four organisations are opposed to the autonomy accord of May 4 which launched self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Shawa told reporters that he was "continuing consultations" to form a municipal council and expressed the hope that "diverse Palestinian movements will be represented."

Sudan to register voters next week

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan will start registering voters

next week for a general election expected in March, a state-run newspaper reported on Saturday quoting a member of the electoral commission. The government-owned Al Inqaz Al Watani quoted Adam Mohammad Badri, rapporteur of the seven-man commission, as saying its members would begin by registering voters in all areas of the country not made inaccessible by the rainy season. He said the list of voters, once complete, would be permanent and would be used for any election or referendum. The government says it intends to replace the current appointed parliament with an elected one. The president and his deputy are also due to be elected, probably in 1996. Sudan's president, Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, formed the electoral commission late last month and appointed a former judge, Abdul Moneim Al Nahas, to head it. Elections are currently being conducted at local and provincial levels under the Libyan-style non-party system based on people's congresses. Gen. Bashir disbanded all political parties when he seized power from the civilian government of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in 1989. He accused them of corruption, sectarianism and nepotism.

Algerian woman wins refugee status

PARIS (AFP) — A 23-year-old Algerian woman who fled her country because of Islamic fundamentalist persecution won refugee status in France on Friday, ending a two-year battle. The woman, named only as Nadia E., lived in France until she was 14. She returned to Algeria with her parents, but in 1991 was repeatedly threatened and attacked by fundamentalists because she continued to work as a secretary, refusing to wear the veil and stay at home. Her lawyer Patrick Carhohan said: "She was stoned, she had to give up her job and she ended up running away when her family tried to marry her off against her will." On arrival in France, she was at first refused refugee status, but appealed. On Friday, an appeals commission ruled she had been "the victim of repeated threats and violence by Islamic elements" and that Algerian authorities had condoned the situation. The appeals commission has accorded refugee status to only 13 out of 700 applicants since January 1993. Friday's ruling would set a precedent for other women in Nadia's predicament, Mr. Carhohan said.

Aden port, refinery resume operations

SANAA (Agencies) — Aden's port and oil refinery, badly damaged in the two-month Yemeni civil war, have been repaired and are operating again, the official Yemeni news agency SABA reported late Friday.

A Liberian-registered oil tanker entered the port Friday loaded with crude oil from the Maareb field east of Sanaa, officials quoted by SABA said. It was due to deliver its cargo to the newly-operational Aden refinery.

A Panamanian-registered tanker and several ships carrying humanitarian aid, including supplies from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), also arrived at the port.

Yemen received 18 tonnes of medical supplies from the Arab League Friday, intended for war victims, SABA reported.

Aden's port installations were hit during an intense month-long bombardment by northern forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh before they captured the city on July 7.

The refinery, which processed 140,000 barrels of oil per day before the war, was seriously damaged by northern warplanes. Several fuel storage tanks were hit, along with the administration block.

Aden international airport, which was also damaged, remains closed.

On Thursday a Yemeni economist, Abdullah Ali Said, estimated that more than \$4 billion would be needed to rebuild Aden.

Yemen produced 350,000 barrels of oil per day before the war, more than half of it from the Maareb field.

According to President Saleh, the war which broke out on May 5 cost 931 lives and wounded 5,000 people.

Church attacked

A group of Muslims attacked and almost completely wrecked a Catholic church Friday in Aden, police said.

A police source who asked to remain anonymous said "armed fundamentalists" attacked the church at Al Tawahi, central Aden, during the afternoon, destroying the interior and windows.

An AFP correspondent said the cross atop the church had been ripped off, and the doors and windows had been smashed in.

The 19th century building served employees of western firms and diplomatic missions.

Hundreds of political prisoners, including militants of the Jihad movement, have been set free in southern Yemen in recent days following the victory by northern forces in the two-month civil war.

Al Islah is the sworn enemy of the Yemeni Socialist Party whose leaders launched the bid to secede from the north. Both organisations are members of the government coalition in Sanaa.

Islamic groups are looking to extend their influence over Yemen's political future, and have demanded the imposition of the Sharia or Islamic law to cover the whole of the country as its "sole source of legislation."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Julie Les-cout
18:30	News in French
18:45	Frank Post-River
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	You Bet Your Life
20:55	Jordanese
21:10	Stolen Lives
21:20	News in English
22:30	The House of Eliot
23:10	The Second Half
PRAYER TIMES	
04:10	Fair
05:40	(Sunrise) Duhur
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	Asr
19:44	Maghreb
21:15	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624940	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637430	
De la Salle Church Tel. 61757	
Terrazana Church Tel. 622360	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 638551	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Izzeh	752971
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa	819220
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi	743500
Dr. Jamil Maray	770149
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	785336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Naroukh pharmacy	623072
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644445
Shmebani pharmacy	637664
Nairouh pharmacy	623672
Najih pharmacy	837632
IRBID:	
Dr. Fajez Oadi	248743
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein	985000
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	893390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605900
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	623101
Complaints	623101
Telephone Information	(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls	810230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	640100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Aila Intl. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Alkilch Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahbas, J. Amman	641400
Palestine, Shmebani	664171/4
Shmebani Hospital	664131
University Hospital	848045
Al-Mushter Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, Marja	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Qasbi Hospital	8993323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)980540
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)980540
Al Hilma Modern Hospital	(09)980540
DRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)275555
Al Naites Hospital	(02)275555
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)
06:15	Agaba (RJ)
06:45	Damascus (RJ)
07:15	Jeddah (RJ)
07:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casa Blanca (RJ)
12:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:50	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
13:15	Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Riyadh (RJ)
13:45	Jeddah (RJ)
14:15	Damascus (RJ)
14:30	New Delhi (RJ)
14:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:00	Larnaca (CY)
15:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
15:30	Bangkok (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Agaba (RJ)
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
07:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casa Blanca (RJ)
12:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:50	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
13:15	Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Riyadh (RJ)
13:45	Jeddah (RJ)
14:15	Damascus (RJ)
14:30	New Delhi (RJ)
14:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:00	Larnaca (CY)
15:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
15:30	Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:20	Anatolia (TK)
05:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
06:45	Moscow (SU)
07:15	Larnaca (CY)
08:30	Cairo (MS)
09:15	Beirut (ME)
10:15	Istanbul (TK)
11:25	Amsterdam (KL)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	580 / 400
Apricots	800 / 700
Banana	600 / 680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Chuhago	140 / 80
Carrot	250 / 180
Cherry	1200 / 700
Cauliflower	250 / 180
Cucumbers (large)	90 / 50
Cucumbers (small)	180 / 100
Eggplant	180 / 100
Garlic	580 / 400
Garlic	580 / 400
Onions	400 / 300
Lemon	620 / 500
Marrow (large)	90 / 50
Marrow (small)	220 / 150
Mulukhiyah	120 / 70
Okra	850 / 600
Orange	500 / 400
Onion (dry)	220 / 150
Sweet Melon	200 / 100
Pepper (hot)	300 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 180
Potato	430 / 320
Peas	800 / 500
Tomato	160 / 80
String beans	300 / 200
Watermelon	110 / 60

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30	Anatolia (TK)
07:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:25	Moscow (SU)
19:00	Larnaca (CY)
20:30	Cairo (ME)
21:15	Beirut (MS)
21:30	Istanbul (TK)
01:25	Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

(Terminal 1)

06:00	Aqaba (RJ)
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
13:40	Vienna (RJ)
12:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
20:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Jeddah (RJ)
21:50	Riyadh (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
22:25	New Delhi (RJ)
23:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:40	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:40	Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:15	Anatolia (TK)
07:30	Rome (AZ)
14:30	Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:05	Moscow (SU)
19:00	Larnaca (CY)
21:15	Cairo (ME)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	580 / 400
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Marrow (small)	220 / 150
Mulukhiyah	120 / 70
Okra	850 / 600
Orange	500 / 400
Onion (dry)	220 / 150
Sweet Melon	200 / 100
Pepper (hot)	300 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 180
Potato	430 / 330
Peaches	800 / 500
Tomato	100 / 50

U.S. sees time ebbing for political solution in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The U.S. embassy urged Haiti's military leaders Friday to "immediately" step down as 100 U.S. troops headed for the Dominican Republic to reinforce the trade embargo along the impoverished country's border.

With Haiti planning elections by year-end, a U.S.-led pan-American summit in December and U.S. congressional elections in November, the United States wants Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras and his aides to cede power now.

"They have to be gone immediately, if not sooner," said U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger.

The United States wants the military out "well prior" to October, when U.S. special Haitian envoy William Gray's 130-day mandate expires, he said.

Mr. Schragger said Washington was continuing its policy of tightening enforcement of international economic sanctions against Haiti, but a military invasion could not be ruled out even before the United Nations endorses the use of troops.

"There are significant time constraints," he said. "You still have this sense of urgency in terms of time slipping away... I don't think anybody could say how long we are prepared to continue to wait."

The Dominican Republic's Foreign Ministry said that about 100 U.S. troops would arrive in the country this weekend to help reinforce the border to prevent smuggling into Haiti under an agreement between the country and the United States.

Mr. Schragger said earlier that the United States and Dominican Republic were close to agreement on a plan for a U.S.-sponsored force to seal off the Haitian border against fuel smugglers, a key step in U.S. effort to make economic sanctions bite deeper.

The United States has demanded that Haiti's military rulers turn over power to exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a September 1991 coup.

The Clinton administration Thursday sought U.N. authorization for an invasion if needed to topple Haiti's jun-

ta. Washington is aiming for U.N. approval of the resolution by the end of next week, and the White House said Friday that President Bill Clinton met with senior advisers on international issues, including Haiti.

To protest the request to the United Nations, Haiti's military rulers said in a communique Friday that they felt a renewed determination to hold elections and establish "real democracy."

Asked if the United States would wait until it had obtained U.N. endorsement for any military action, Mr. Schragger said, "I wouldn't rule anything in or out, all options are on the table."

He said he was unaware of any deadline for the military leaders to leave. "An invasion is not imminent, but who knows what 'imminent' means," he said.

Time constraints for a political solution including Haitian local and legislative elections due in November or December, a December pan-American summit in Miami, and U.S. congressional elections in November, Mr. Schragger said.

In addition, Mr. Aristide's term is to expire in February 1996, and delays in returning would weaken his ability to govern, he said.

He said the international community would not recognize the results of any Haitian elections held under the military, which also intends to hold a presidential election in time for a new president to take office Feb. 7, 1995.

To help fight the effects of the sanctions, the military-backed government has said it plans to print more currency, promoting fears of runaway inflation.

Meanwhile, an international aid official said a shipment that arrived Thursday of 10,000 barrels of fuel for use in humanitarian programmes was being held up in port by unprecedented delays in obtaining import permits.

The U.S. Coast Guard picked up 83 Haitian refugees at sea Thursday, but none Wednesday, and a recent decline in refugee numbers shows encouraging signs of holding, Mr. Schragger said. The Coast Guard said it had picked up no refugees by midday Friday.



Haitian women steady a water bowl on top of a small girl's head as the container is filled with drinking water at a water distribution point in the Cite Soleil district of Port Au Prince. Haitians walk for miles to get clean water for use in their homes (AFP photo)

Arrests roll after Italian graft debate

ROME (R) — A former Italian defence minister was arrested on suspicion of graft Saturday, just days after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was forced to climb down over a decree that allowed scores of graft suspects to leave jail.

Mr. Berlusconi, still smarting from the row that brought his government to the brink of collapse Tuesday, said he had considered quitting at the height of the crisis.

In a sign that Italy's anti-corruption had not been hampered by the controversy, investigators in the Sicilian city of Catania ordered the arrest of former Defence Minister Salvo Ando together with five other local politicians and businessmen.

Judicial sources said they were detained as part of an investigation into contracts handed out by a local hospital.

Mr. Ando, a member of the discredited Socialist Party, served as defence minister from July 1992 to April the

following year.

In Milan, the city's elite pool of "clean hands" anti-graft investigators who had threatened to quit over Mr. Berlusconi's decree, ordered the arrest of Roberto D'Alessandro, a former head of the Augusta State Helicopter Company.

He was held on suspicion of violation of laws on the financing of political parties.

The arrests came the day after Mr. Berlusconi's government formally approved a bill that will tighten rules for holding suspects in pre-trial custody but effectively keep corruption as an offence that justifies preventive custody.

The bill was introduced after Mr. Berlusconi's government was forced into an embarrassing climbdown over an earlier decree that had removed graft and bribery from the list of offences liable for preventive custody in jail.

The decree, formally thrown out by parliament Thursday, had unleashed a torrent of protest in Italy

from critics who accused Mr. Berlusconi of protecting the country's discredited political old guard.

In the five days that the decree remained in force, more than 2,500 people including more than 230 graft suspects — left jail, most of them for house arrest.

It was effectively killed off Tuesday when Mr. Berlusconi's main political allies flatly refused to back the decree, arguing it would spell the end of the graft investigations.

In an interview published Saturday, Mr. Berlusconi said he had considered quitting the crisis, but decided otherwise to save the country from political and economic paralysis.

"I was tempted," he told Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

"From a political point of view it would probably be expedient. But I am not a traditional politician and the idea of more months of economic paralysis was literally horrifying."

George Burns released from hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian George Burns was released from a hospital Friday after he cut his head in a bathtub fall. "He's doing very well. He's looking forward to going back to work shortly," said Paula Corrao, a spokeswoman for Cedars Sinai Medical Centre. The 98-year-old comedian needed two stitches after the fall on July 13 at his Las Vegas home. He was admitted for observation Monday. Tests found no additional problems. Burns had to cancel an engagement that was to begin Thursday at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. "The only thing that he's annoyed about is his management cancelled his Las Vegas performance," said Ron Wise, a hospital spokesman. "He never misses a date. But his doctor was pretty firm."

\$1.7m Stradivarius stolen from Rolls in New York

NEW YORK (R) — A Stradivarius violin worth \$1.75 million and a Joseph Rocca violin worth \$250,000 were stolen from a parked Rolls Royce in New York City, police said. The violins were stolen while the car's owner, Israeli violinist Romy Rogoff, went to telephone for help when his late 1980s Rolls got a flat tire in midtown Manhattan. Police said an unidentified man approached the car and asked Mr. Rogoff's passenger if he had dropped any money on the curb. The violins were stolen as the passenger, Japanese violin collector Irie Kazumasa, searched the ground. Mr. Kazumasa owned both violins. Stradivarius violins, widely considered among the finest string instruments ever made, were hand-crafted by Antonio Stradivari and his family in the 18th century.

Holiday romances OK, but use a condom

PARIS (AFP) — France has launched a campaign to prevent holiday romances from boosting the number of its AIDS cases, a European record standing at more than 30,000 victims since the epidemic began. "On holiday I forget everything except a condom" is the theme of television spots and a poster campaign aimed at holidaymakers tempted by casual sex during the long hot vacation. Red ribbon bracelets bearing the words "when you wear a condom, you protect me" are being handed out in discos, at petrol stations, camp sites and summer festivals and on beaches. A total 3,600 condoms will hand out free condoms and a French Red Cross convoy will tour holiday resorts to spread the anti-AIDS word. The government will also step up supplies of cheap condoms, on sale for one franc (20 cents). In the five months since the operation was launched in December last year, 7.5 million were sold, mostly to young people, and another 9.4 million will be put on the market. Authorities also launched a \$13 million programme to fight AIDS and hepatitis among drug addicts by making clean needles available. Between 25 and 30 per cent of heroin addicts in France have AIDS and 70 per cent are carriers of hepatitis C. On sale for the state-subsidised sum of five francs (\$1) will be a kit containing two hypodermics, disinfectants, a condom and sterilised water. Attempting to catch up in the fight against heroin, France will also step up its methadone substitution programme providing 1,645 beds before the end of the year, compared with 500 at present.

Hitler, Mussolini mistaken for ancient britons

LONDON (R) — Two stone faces displayed in a British museum as rare, 2,000-year-old Celtic carvings have turned out to be a wartime joke. The two menacing stone faces won pride of place in Pendle Heritage Centre, northwest England, after they were dug out of a nearby garden in 1968. But 78-year-old Ted Ridings recognised them as rough carvings of Italy's wartime fascist leader Benito Mussolini and German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler done by his brother Leslie in 1939. The faces have now been removed from the museum's exhibit.

Burmese troops battle Mon resistance fighters

BANGKOK (AFP) — A platoon of Burmese troops battled ethnic Mon resistance fighters for the second time in as many days, but there was no report of casualties, a Mon official said Saturday.

The 30-minute clash Friday night occurred about 10 kilometres from the Thai-Burmese border opposite Thailand's Sangkhlaburi district.

The Mon National Relief Committee (MNRC) official said when reached by telephone from Bangkok. The clash followed a battle Thursday between Mon fighters and about 100 Burmese troops who had occupied Kwan Sava Village and were marching to the main Halochkani refugee camp about two kilometres away.

No one was reported hurt in that battle either, but the MNRC said the angry soldiers torched Kwan Sava Village in retaliation.

The fighting also sent some 5,000 Mons fleeing the camp near Three Pagoda Pass across the border into Sangkhlaburi district, some 280 kilometres northwest of Bangkok.

The MNRC said Friday it thought the Burmese troops occupied Kwan Sava to conscript Mons as porters and to put pressure on the New Mon

State Party, which is locked in ceasefire talks with Burma's military regime.

Meanwhile Amnesty International Friday said it was "gravely concerned" for the safety of 16 men currently in the hands of the Burmese army, following an attack on a civilian refugee camp on the Thai border.

And it called on the Burmese government to prove its stated commitment to human rights by ending such incidents and unconditionally releasing 58 prisoners of conscience said to be held in the country.

"Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of the 16 men currently in the hands of the 'tatmadaw' (Burmese army), particularly because the organisation has received many reliable reports of torture and killing of civilians by the 'tatmadaw'," the London-based human rights organisation said.

Burma's Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw told journalists Friday his country had no human rights problem — only 24 hours after soldiers attacked the Halochkani civilian refugee camp on the border with Thailand. Amnesty International reported.

Shuttle lands in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AFP) — The U.S. space shuttle Columbia landed here safely Saturday bringing its seven-member crew home from a record-breaking science mission after storms forced a day-long delay.

The spacecraft landed at 6:38 a.m. (1038 GMT), some 24 hours after its initial scheduled return Friday was delayed by stormy weather in Florida.

During the flight, the astronauts paid homage to the Apollo 11 space mission, the first from which 25 years ago on July 20, 1969, the first man walked on the moon.

The delay meant the craft to set a new shuttle record for length of time in space of 14 days, 17 hours and 55 minutes, surpassing the previous mark of 14 days, 13 minutes seconds set last October by another Columbia crew.

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Gambian soldiers mount coup, say president fled

DAKAR, Senegal (R) — Gambian soldiers who rampaged through the capital Banjul have announced a military coup and say President Sir Dawda Jawara has fled the country, state radio said Saturday.

"This is an announcement by the Gambian Armed Forces. This country is being taken over by the Gambian Armed Forces. The previous political regime has been completely toppled," a man identifying himself as Lieutenant Yaya Jameh said.

The former head of state, Sir Dawda Jawara has fled the nation. Some former government ministers have been captured and are in safe hands," he added in a broadcast monitored in neighbouring Senegal.

He said his men, who rampaged through the capital of the small West African country Friday, had arrested Vice President Saidu Sabally and established a provisional ruling council, consisting of himself and three other lieutenants.

Diplomats in touch with their missions in Banjul said the army had first gone on radio Friday evening, announcing their takeover and imposing an overnight curfew.

Lt. Jameh appealed for calm and asked people to return to work.

The country, with glorious

Atlantic coast beaches, is a popular destination for British tourists, about 1,000 of whom are believed to be in Gambia and have been advised to stay in their hotels.

Soldiers, originally thought to be simply protesting over unpaid wages, were first reported rampaging through Banjul Friday morning.

By the end of the day they had taken over the city's international airport, radio station and power station. International telephone lines went dead and messages to Banjul's public telefax office went unanswered.

The airport and land borders were reported closed on Saturday.

Sir Dawda, his country's president since independence from Britain in 1965, survived a leftist coup attempt in July 1981 thanks to Senegalese military intervention.

In 1991 disgruntled soldiers marched on his residence in protest at arrears of pay for peacekeeping duties in Liberia. The demonstration ended peacefully after negotiations.

Gambia is a tiny nation of one million people bordered on three sides by Senegal and on the fourth by the Atlantic ocean.

Its 800-strong army is led by a Nigerian colonel under a 1992 agreement between the two former British colonies. There has so far been no

word of Colonel Lawan Gwadbabe, who took over the command in a routine rotation last month.

The British government Saturday said it "strongly deplored" the mutiny and the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, which groups former British colonies, has offered to help restore calm.

In a statement, Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku said he had been deeply concerned at news of the unrest.

"The extent of the disturbances and their possible implications for the democratically elected government of the Gambia are yet to be fully quantified," he said.

Comet dies on Jupiter, leaving band of southern bruises

GREENBELT, MD (R) — The last piece of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 slammed into Jupiter, ending a six-day death plunge that left the planet battered but rich in data that astronomers will mine for years.

"All the fragments that we could see with a telescope have hit Jupiter, so that part of the show is over," said comet co-discoverer Eugene Shoemaker at a briefing.

Images taken by the orbiting Hubble space telescope and other observatories around the world show Jupiter with a series of bloody-coloured bruises at about 45 degrees latitude all around its southern hemisphere.

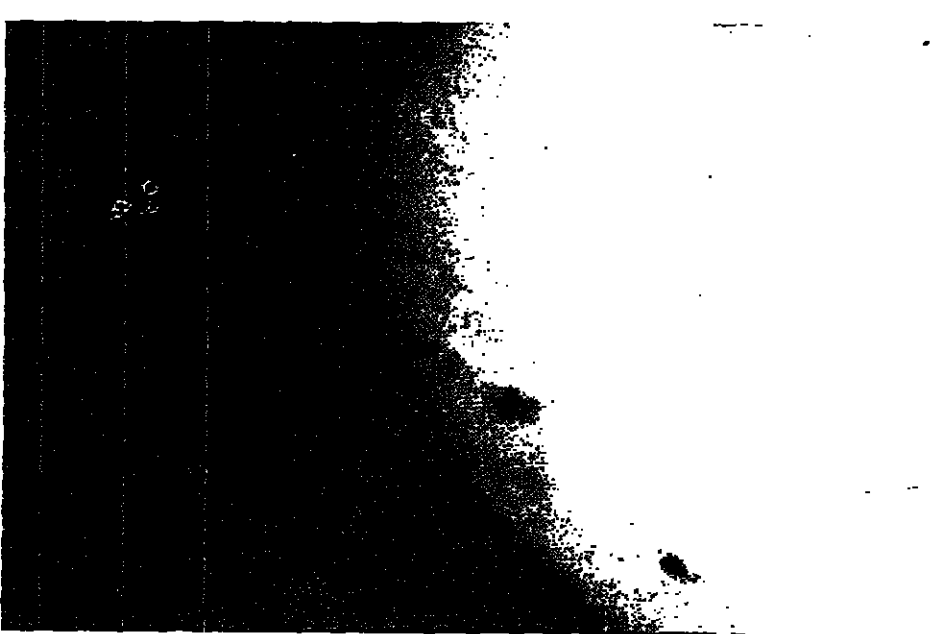
The bruises — and at least two "black eyes" featuring dark central scars and larger concentric smudges — are the signs of the impact of some 21 fragments of the dying comet, which hit the giant planet at 134,000 miles an hour (60 km per second) starting July 16.

The last chunk of the comet to make impact, fragment W, landed around 4 a.m. EDT (0800 GMT) Friday, creating a fireball and plume of hot gas that rose far above Jupiter's surface, astronomers said at the briefing at Goddard Space Flight Centre in suburban Washington.

After the comparative "fizzes" of fragments U and V, the fragment W impact was a grand finale, said astronomer Lucy McFadden, who has been analysing the impacts all week.

The dark bruises visible in photographs of Jupiter are not holes in that planet's ammonia clouds, astronomers said rather they are dark patches high in the stratosphere and will help scientists track stratospheric winds.

But so far, none of the bruises have completely dissipated and astronomers said Friday that it is likely that



This image of Jupiter shows eight impact sites from some of the 21 fragments that hit the planet over a week-long period ending July 22. The fragments from comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 hit Jupiter with a combined explosive force of 40 million megatonnes of TNT (AFP photo)

distinct signs of the mini-comet crashes will be visible even after a year.

Shoemaker and others had hoped that the comet collisions might confirm the existence of water on Jupiter — which scientists have theorised — but astronomer Andrew Ingersoll said these comet fragments probably did not dip down into the layer of water believed to lie beneath Jupiter's clouds.

Astronomers were expected to mull the data collected during the last six days for as much as a decade, and more information is expected from the Galileo space probe, the only craft to actually see the impacts in progress.

Earth-based telescopes and even the Hubble Telescope could only see the results of the crashes because the impacts occurred on the side of Jupiter turned away from Earth.

David Levy, who disco-

vered the comet in 1993 along with Shoemaker and Shoemaker's wife Carolyn, urged amateur astronomers to continue to monitor the comet's progress, because its long tail will continue to plough into Jupiter until mid-September.

Amateurs have a crucial role to play, Mr. Levy said, because Jupiter will be heading towards the sun and some of the world's largest telescopes will not be able to track it. But some smaller, less sensitive telescopes, like those many amateurs use, will be able to follow it.

The fiery death of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter provided astonishing pictures and data for astronomers to examine for years — but one question remains: What if such a crash happened on Earth?

Mr. Shoemaker reassured reporters even as the comet-barrage of Jupiter proceeded: Even the biggest fragment of

Shoemaker-Levy was no "dinosaur-killer."

Jupiter, with a mass more than 300 times Earth, may bear the scars of Shoemaker-Levy's demise for a year or more, with "black eyes," bloody-coloured bruises and a dazzling show of its northern lights all caused by the impact of comet chunks.

If one of Shoemaker-Levy's 21 chunks hurtled toward Earth, it might dig a crater the size of Rhode Island and send up debris into the atmosphere that could filter sunlight and affect crops, but it would not threaten civilisation, Shoemaker and others have said.

For those who theorise that the violent descent of a meteorite, asteroid or comet wiped out dinosaurs on Earth 65 million years ago, this is not necessarily calming, given predictions by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA). NASA estimates there are 2,100 asteroids larger than .6 mile (1 km), and further theorises that the collision of a falling body that size on Earth could degrade the global climate, leading to widespread crop failure and loss of life.

Something 3 miles (5 km) or more would cause mass extinctions on Earth, according to NASA. There are 15 comets that pass inside Earth's orbit that are between .6 and 6 miles (1-10 km) and could cause massive damage if they crashed into Earth.

This is not likely any time soon, nor have there been any reports of a human being dying by a meteorite or comet impact in the last 1,000 years, according to NASA's figures.

Nevertheless, the six-day death dive of Shoemaker-Levy appears to have raised comet consciousness on Capitol Hill, where the House of Representatives Science, Space and Technology Committee asked NASA to study some of the comets and asteroids whose paths will intersect Earth's.

Some at the Defence Department and in NASA have advocated using "Star Wars" technology to take aim at any incoming comets and change their orbits, but Mr. Shoemaker disagrees.

"Knocking a comet down is a tough thing to do," Mr. Shoemaker said Friday. "... I for one am not one that's advocating that we have a standby armada of launch vehicles, nuclear weapons to go shoot them down."

He did agree that concentrating on the few comets or other bodies most likely to collide with Earth would be appropriate, but said trying to get them all would not be the right response to the situation.

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Avert a Goma in Yemen

REPORTS FROM the southern Yemeni city of Aden speak of spreading cholera cases against the backdrop of scarcity of water and contamination in the water available to the city's nearly 400,000 residents. Water pumps and pipelines are damaged and relief agencies face chaos whenever they attempt to distribute water in an organised manner. Adding to the problems is the overall security situation, which prompted the mayor of the city to maintain checkpoints at the entrances to the city for another week.

In fact, insecurity is the main problem facing Aden, impeding international relief efforts to contain the situation. We cannot expect voluntary workers to be experts in crowd control and organised distribution of relief to hundreds of thousands, particularly when it comes to water. Nor are the numerous relief agencies in Yemen equipped to meet the needs of the entire city.

The irony of Aden is that international relief agencies and non-governmental organisations have been issuing repeated warnings against the dangers of epidemics spreading in the city unless order was restored and the international community stepped in with aid. The prophecies of the relief agencies are slowly coming true.

No doubt, there is no shortage of goodwill, but what we need is also the material support to prop up relief work in Yemen. Political considerations may dissuade the country's rich neighbours to step in with help. History will judge their action, but we in Jordan can and should help our Yemeni brethren by taking the initiative to extend all assistance we can.

The situation in Aden may pale in comparison with the vivid television footage in Rwandan refugees from Goma, on the Rwandan-Zairean border, prompting cynics to raise eyebrows and assert that the human tragedy that befell the Rwandans is of a much grave magnitude. Indeed it is, but the difference for us in Jordan is that we could do something to help Yemen if only because of the proximity of that country to ours, while our assistance to the Rwandans would only be far too delayed and at best a drop in the bucket.

Although that does not mean that we should stay away from extending help to the Africans, the significant reality in Yemen is that the situation could be contained in a relatively shorter period and Aden could be spared a reenactment of the Rwandan scene if we were to adopt immediate and urgent efforts to move with medical help for the Yemeni people.

We in Jordan have always set an example for the rest of the Arab World in our willingness to extend sincere help to stricken people everywhere despite our limited material resources. We do have several medical teams at work in Yemen and we are also treating Yemenis in our hospitals and other facilities.

But, we do have a vast human potential in terms of qualified medical staff who could respond swiftly to the emergency in Aden and other towns in Yemen where the situation could turn worse if left unaddressed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the so-called Arab-Israeli normalisation would not see the light under the prevailing circumstances and as long as the Israelis hold on to the occupied Arab lands and their aggressive policies, I truly believe that normalisation would not materialise, not with Jordan alone but also with the other Arab parties, simply because it is rejected by the Israelis themselves, said the writer. He said the Israelis do not wish to establish normal relations with the people of this region, they do not want to withdraw from the Golan, South Lebanon and Palestine and have not yet expressed any intention of giving up occupied Jordanian land. And above all, he said, they refuse to give up the idea of building Jewish settlements on Arab-owned lands.

Fifteen years ago, the Israelis established diplomatic relations with Egypt but to date no real normalisation between the two states either at the official or popular level has materialised, said the writer. He said that normalisation was not forthcoming simply because the Arab people realise that Israel is their number one enemy as it continues to usurp their lands and rights and refuses to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their own soil, added the writer. He said that it is Israel which has chosen to remain the enemy of the Arab Nation.

Mohammad Khashash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said the Arabs are not concerned whether U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has achieved any progress on the Israeli-Syrian track or not. What concerns us, he said, is to see a comprehensive peace that ensures Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Is Israel really oriented towards peace with the Arabs, it has no alternative but to implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the writer. Withdrawal is not subject to compromises and discussions, and Israel has to shoulder the responsibility of removing the Jewish settlements built on the Syrian heights, stressed the writer. The Syrian government has to face the moment of truth and to realise that Syria would never allow Israel to make gains at Syrian expense, he added. It should be noted, said the writer, that the current events in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's procrastinations over the implementation of agreements provide evidence that Israel has no credibility and continues to stall and play for time. It is this attitude, said the writer, that forces Damascus to cling to its principled stands and demand total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian territories.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Multiple challenges facing Jordan

MAJOR CHALLENGES face Jordan at the same time, but nothing to worry. Jordan has an excellent record in overcoming difficulties, weathering crises, and at times converting them into opportunities.

Jordan now faces many political, economic, and social challenges, and has some worrying imbalances to tackle in the coming years. The advent of peace, itself a challenge, will alter the landscape and perhaps call for new approaches.

Political challenges include upgrading democracy and accepting pluralism as a way of life. The peace process and the sensitive Jordanian-Palestinian relationship are but some other examples of political challenges that the Jordanian people have to resolve.

On the economic front, Jordan has to deal with the basic problem of economic growth, to cope with the growth of population. It has to find a satisfactory solution, once and for all, to the problem of external heavy indebtedness and get ready for the new rules of the game when Arab economic boycott of Israel is lifted after 45 years, which used to put Israel outside the Middle East region from a trade point of view.

On the social front, Jordan has to combat poverty, which includes some 18 per cent of the people, create jobs for the unemployed, currently estimated at 14 per cent of the workforce, develop safety nets and better means for fair distribution of income among individuals and areas.

Among the imbalances that Jordan must face are the imbalance between population and meager natural re-

sources, the acute shortage of water resources, and the limited sources and applications of foreign exchange.

It is hoped that the huge and risky decision by Jordan to think the unthinkable and go ahead and make peace with Israel, recognise its June 4, 1967 borders, and normalise political and economic relations will carry some rewards in terms of security, stability and tangible economic benefits.

As far as the economy is concerned, the Jordanian people are made to expect a flow of foreign aid to finance development, a substantial reduction or write-off of foreign debt, a fair share of the common water of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, a channel to connect the Red Sea with the Dead Sea to save the environment and generate electricity and a preferential treatment to help Jordan enter the markets of Europe and the United States.

Jordan also expects to have full access to the market of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and put an end to the treatment of the West Bank and Gaza as a captured market for Israel.

The gradual easing of sanctions against Iraq is particularly crucial, not only because the economic relations with Iraq are very important for the wellbeing of the Jordanian economy, but also because normalisation of economic relations with Iraq is not politically or morally acceptable before the normalisation of economic relations with Israel.

To avoid disappointment later on, Jordanian leadership should not settle for vague promises. We should know exactly what to expect, and plan on clear promises being carried out timely.



The mask of confidence worn by Arafat seems to be slipping

By Robert Fisk

TWO DAYS after his first return to Gaza, Yasser Arafat was walking down the staircase of the Palestine Hotel in Gaza City when he saw a group of Israeli journalists waiting for him on the first floor. "It's a trap," he hissed to his astonished economic adviser. "They have come to ask me bad questions."

The PLO official gently told his chairman that as "President" of Palestine, he must talk to the Israelis. "But they will want to take a photograph of me with them that will be used by our enemies here," Mr. Arafat muttered. "They will ask questions about our problems to embarrass me."

Grudgingly, Mr. Arafat agreed to say a few words, but the episode revealed the suspicion and fear the PLO leader has tried to conceal from his supporters. Even to them, the mask of confidence has occasionally slipped. Addressing Palestinians in the Jabaliya refugee camp, he admitted for the first time that the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles — for which he had thanked President Clinton three times in front of the world's TV cameras — was, after all, not quite what it was cracked up to be.

"Let's talk frankly," he said in a passage that went largely unreported. "The agreement we have made is not to our taste. But it is the best we have when we are facing the worst Arab predicament."

Despite the hoopla and the reports of a "triumphal" homecoming, therefore, Mr. Arafat was back doing what he knows best: making the best of a very bad job — in this case, a deeply-flawed agreement that has left almost 2 million Palestinians rotting in the refugee camps of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and in the eyes of his critics, has legitimised Israel's occupation over the rest of the West Bank.

Despite the Jewish settlements built across the West Bank, Mr. Arafat accepted without demur the suggestion of Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, that

Israeli-occupied territories should henceforth be referred to as "disputed" — as if the Israelis might have some valid territorial claim to these Palestinian lands — preferring instead to boast to his colleagues of the postage stamps and passports that Palestinians might soon be able to purchase.

Mr. Arafat pleaded his poverty to the world, claiming that the Americans had given him only \$5m to pay his 9,000-strong police force, neglecting to mention that the Israeli economy, so heavily under-written by the United States, is subsidising the Israeli army's redeployment within Gaza to the tune of \$148m, a figure issued by the Israeli army itself.

"Mr. Arafat's award of a UNESCO peace prize contained ironies that were not lost on his critics. He accepted the prize from Henry Kissinger, who did more than almost any other politician to isolate the PLO's voice in the seventies."

Mr. Arafat's award of a UNESCO peace prize contained ironies that were not lost on his critics. He accepted the prize from Henry Kissinger, who did more than almost any other politician to isolate the PLO's voice in the seventies; and it was an award paid for from funds donated by the late Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who once admitted to salting away "billions" in Swiss banks and squandered the Ivory Coast's money on a Catholic basilica larger than St. Peter's.

There will be no such architectural monstrosities in Mr. Arafat's Palestinian boroughs, but the smell of political corruption has been noticed. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the incorruptible Palestinian nationalist who led the original delegation to the Washington peace talks but who refused to accept a seat on Mr. Arafat's "National Authority", says that democratic rule cannot be guaranteed in Mr. Arafat's new fief-

doms. The selection of members of the self-rule authority and of Palestinian police officers, he says, "depended mostly on political and personal loyalties rather than on efficiency."

And within a week of Mr. Arafat's arrival in Gaza, a phenomenon long familiar to those who endured the PLO's militia rule in Lebanon appeared in the city. Farid Jabu, a 28-year-old taxi driver accused of "collaboration" with Israel, died — officially of a mysterious "heart attack" — in PLO custody in Gaza City; but his family said that when his body was returned to them, it bore the marks of severe beatings.

How soon, Mr. Arafat's opponents are asking, before

Danny Rothschild, head of Israeli military administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has been telling colleagues that some Palestinian officials who work for Mr. Arafat are much brighter than their leader, more efficient, easier to get along with. At best, this means the Israelis acknowledge that at least some PLO officials can run an administration. At worst, it means that Mr. Arafat — having signed, sealed and delivered his side of the bargain — is now disposable.

Perhaps Mr. Arafat may be forgiven for thinking that the initial smack of firm government will impress his own fractured population. But while his "mukhabarat" intelligence men cruise the streets of Gaza, it is the Israelis who are proposing new rules. In the Israeli press, government officials have suggested Mr. Arafat may achieve a quicker Israeli military "redeployment" in the rest of the West Bank if he chooses not to argue about the civilian powers of the elected Palestinian Council. The elections themselves might be shelved, these same officials are indicating, while Hebron — the most curfewed city in the West Bank — might remain under permanent Israeli military control. "There would be different rules for Hebron," one Israeli official said.

Perhaps Mr. Arafat was right to sense a political ambush when he walked down the hotel staircase, but it was not the journalists who represented the trap. Locked into what he now accepts was a bad agreement, he has to live with the consequences. To maintain Israeli goodwill, he will have to make further concessions to Israel — which will help to destroy his own power. To lose Israeli goodwill will postpone any further Israeli redeployment — let alone withdrawal — indefinitely. In either case, Israelis as well as Palestinians will bleed if the intifada resumes. And as the days go by, Mr. Arafat, rather than a revolutionary hero building a nation, is likely to emerge as a profoundly tragic figure.

The Independent

Children of Iraq suffer, medical supplies dwindle

By Victoria Brittain

A SERIOUS deterioration in the health of children in Iraq, with supplies of drugs at a far lower level than after the Gulf war, has been reported by a medical charity working in the country. Kwashiorkor, rickets and malnutrition are now common problems, leukemia is increasing rapidly, and the death rate among child cancer victims has doubled.

Hospitals are struggling to manage without antiseptics, incubators, anaesthetics, needles, antibiotics and drugs of all kinds, according to a report by Medical Aid for Iraq (MAI) whose doctors and nurses have taken convoys of medicines and basic equipment into Iraq nine times in the past three years.

Medical aid is supposed to be exempt from the sanctions imposed by the United Nations after the Gulf war. However, aid agencies have complained of considerable practical difficulties in ensuring supplies.

In five hospitals in Baghdad and six outside, MAI reported shortages of medicines for children with chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma and epilepsy. Children with cancer are being given half dosages of drugs. Intravenous drugs and fluids are especially scarce, and antibiotics are being given in half measures. Sick children are fed on bread and tea, and there is a shortage of milk powder for babies.

Against a background of sharply rising inflation, salaries, even of the most skilled people such as university professors or hospital consultants, do not provide a decent living. For instance, a senior doctor earns 23 dinars a day. One egg costs 10 dinars and a kilo of meat 300 dinars. The monthly rations supplied by

the government last a family less than two weeks. They include rice and flour, but no proteins. The milk allowance for children under 12 months is half the required amount. Malnourished women are giving birth to smaller, weaker babies, and their reduced immunity means that they are more prone to common infections.

The MAI team reported a particularly sharp deterioration in Baghdad itself, where stores of medical supplies laid down before the Gulf war are now exhausted. Twenty-five per cent of the population live in the capital.

In the hospitals, wards are dirty because there are no disinfectants or cleaning fluids. Cholera and typhoid are rampant because of the lack of spare parts to repair water-processing plants. Chlorine for water purification is in very short supply. And the drinking of unpasteurised milk is causing many cases of brucellosis.

In the Kerbala children's hospital 60 miles south of Baghdad, there was a severe shortage of nurses, said the report. The neonatal unit was virtually empty as there were no drugs for sick babies. No aid group had delivered medicines to this hospital for six months before the MAI team arrived.

An even more serious dramatic situation was found by the team at Diwaniya children's hospital, 110 miles south. Some 800,000 people and 140 paediatric beds and 140 beds for women. Children were found sleeping on the floor because of the lack of beds, and the hospital is receiving only 5 per cent of the medicines needed each month.

The Guardian

Child victims of sanctions

The following letters appeared in The Guardian July 15, 1994, in response to the above article.

LAST November, I visited the Al Amariya Primary School in Baghdad. The school is next to "civil defence shelter number 25", where about 1,100 women and children were burned to death when the allies bombed the shelter in February 1991.

The headmistress told me how, for months after the bombing, her pupils would run away from school and stand waiting by the shelter for the friends and relatives they had lost to reappear. This story is typical. A UNICEF study last year found that the war continues to "overwhelm, dominate and disturb" the thinking of many Iraqi children; 62 per cent of those interviewed did not believe they would survive to adulthood.

It is this traumatised child population who, as Kais Al Kaisy writes bear the brunt of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Destitute and orphaned children begging on the streets are now a common sight and poverty is forcing increasing numbers out of school and into the labour market. Government rations provide less than two thirds of the daily energy requirement and lack protein and micro nutrients vital for healthy development. This state of chronic nutritional deficiency leaves children more susceptible to disease, which must often go untreated because of medicine shortages.

Yet speculation about the causes and effects of "Desert Storm Syndrome" does not extend to Iraq's young population, although oil wells and refineries throughout Iraq were bombed, along with pesticide factories, chemical weapons plants and at least three nuclear reactors — one of which, only 15 miles from Baghdad, was reduced to rubble; and there is yet to be a headline about "sugar baby syndrome", a name invented by Iraqi doctors to describe the bloated edemic babies of mothers who, too malnourished to breastfeed, have nothing to feed their children but sugar and tea.

In 1990, the year the blockade started, Britain ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which "reaffirms that children because of their vulnerability, need special care and protection". For the children of Iraq, there is still no sanctuary. The economically ruinous and humiliating price paid by Iraq for a cease-

fire has a precedent in the terms imposed on Germany after the first world war — often cited as a contributory factor to the belligerent Nationalism that was to follow.

History should teach us that the brutalisation of 10 million Iraqi children in the name of the U.N. will not help "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Miriam Ryle,
Lewes, E. Sussex.

Recent correspondence has highlighted the arguably unprecedented plight of the Iraqi people, especially the young, the sick and the frail, resulting from the U.N. embargo.

M Al-Chalabi mentions the derisory \$1.6 billion worth of oil which Iraq is able to sell — but out of which has also to pay reparations to Kuwait, settle with the U.N. inspectors and provide for the structure of a country with a population of 20 million "bombed back to the dark ages". In context, this is precisely the sum which has been estimated for the rebuilding of the quarter square mile of the City of London blown up by the IRA last year.

Speaking on the BBC World Service (July 13), the Argentinean Ambassador to the Sanctions Committee, talking of Haiti, alarmingly echoed his U.S. colleague, Madeline Albright, and expounded on the valuable (and cheap) weapons which sanctions have become. He pointed out that it could take some time for the leadership of a targeted country to be affected and cited 20 years, as in the case of South Africa. His feeling was that if 20 years had to pass, so be it.

Recently, UNICEF has placed on the Internet the full text of the Rights of the Child, the Goals for Children to the year 2000, adopted by the World Summit for Children of 1990, and also the Progress of Nations and the Plan of Action and other relevant documents.

Are the Children of Haiti, Libya, Cuba, Serbia and Iraq to be excluded from these laudable aims?

Given my knowledge of the apocalyptic conditions of health and malnutrition in Iraq, by the year 2000 the entire child population will be decimated if this is to be the case. Victims of the "collateral damage" of sanctions — genocide by default.

Felicity Arbutnot,
London E9.

Iraq suffer

plies dwindle

the government last week... less than two weeks... include rice and flour... proteins. The milk... for children under 12... is half the required... Malnourished women... giving birth to smaller... babies, and their... immunity means that they... more prone to common... diseases.

The MAI team reports... particularly sharp decrease... in Baghdad itself, as... down before the Gulf war... now exhausted twenty... live in the capital.

In the hospital, conditions... dirty because of the... disinfectants or clean... fluids. Cholera and typhoid... are rampant because of the... lack of spare parts to repair... water-processing plants... Chlorine for water purification... is in very short supply. And the drinking of... pasteurised milk is causing... many cases of brucellosis.

In the Kerkula children's... hospital, staff are aware of... shortage of nurses, one family... to transport problems, and... the report. The neonatal unit... was virtually empty as there... were no drugs for sedation. No... aid group had delivered... medicines to the hospital in... six months before the MAI team arrived.

An even more severe... dramatic situation was... by the team at Durrat al-Bayran... children's hospital, 110 miles... south of Baghdad, which... serves 500 people. It has... 140 beds for women and... children, and is used for... the flow of patients because of... the lack of beds in the... receiving only 5 per cent... the medicines needed at... night.

The Guardian

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It has a precedent in... terms imposed on Germany... after the first world war... often cited as a contributory... factor to the belligerent... Nationalism that was... followed.

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Miriam Ryle,
London, E. Sussex

Recent correspondence... has highlighted the... unprecedented plight of... Iraqi refugees, especially... women, the sick and the... frail, from the UN... embassies.

At Al-Haditha, mentions... of 500,000 Iraqi refugees... which, from its... but out of which has... to pay reparations to... with the UN... and provide for the... of a country with... population of 20 million... back to the... In context, this is... the sum which has been... estimated for the rebuilding... of the quarter square mile... of the City of London blown... by the IRA last year.

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Felicity Arbuthnot,
London E9.

Kim Jong-Il faces big problems at N. Korea helm

By David Brunnstrom
Reuters

SEOUL — North Korea's Kim Jong-Il appears on course for Communism's first dynastic succession, but academics and other analysts believe he faces enormous problems consolidating his power long-term.

They said the fallout on North Korea from the death of its founding father Kim Il-sung last week could be as great as that after Mao Tse Tung's death in China in 1976 or Stalin's in Russia in 1953.

All-encompassing was Kim Il-sung's 49-year rule that few analysts will absolutely rule out a power struggle between reformists and hardliners, or even a shuddering disintegration of the political system as seen in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

From an international perspective this is all the more alarming given North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons, an issue which has pitted it against the United States and most of the rest of the world.

"Kim Il-sung's death may just be the first in a series of dominoes which ultimately mean calling into question the very existence of North Korea as a separate state," North Korea expert Aidan Foster-Carter wrote in the London Independent on Monday.

"Now that he is gone there is no guarantee that the state he created in his own image can outlive him for long."

Kim Il-sung was North Korea's undisputed master who commanded absolute loyalty from his subjects, but he bequeathed enormous problems to his successors.

By all accounts the economy is in a very serious crisis stemming from the collapse of North Korea's creator and ally, the Soviet Union. In recent years there have been persistent reports of food and other shortages.

Recovery requires massive foreign investment, but that cannot be secured until the nuclear crisis with the West is resolved and

masterminded terrorist attacks.

Some independent analysts now question this assessment, but the obsessively secretive nature of the Pyongyang leadership makes it virtually impossible to find accurate information.

Seoul-based North Korea analyst Michael Breen believes Kim Jong-Il may be a supporter of economic reform and establishing better relations with the West, but says he runs the risk of alienating hardliners if he takes that path.

"There are two very

different types of people he has got to keep happy — the old guard revolutionaries who fought the Japanese and in the Korean war, and people of his own generation who want to see the country develop economically," he said in an interview.

Either way he faces problems, David Steinberg, Korea studies professor at Georgetown University in the United States, said in a telephone interview.

"Any upsetting of the apple cart either to make things more or less rigid is going to be dangerous for him," he said.

Mr. Foster-Carter said Kim Jong-Il also had to worry about possible challenges to his power from his own family, including his uncle Kim Yong-Ju, who staged a dramatic political comeback last year, and his half-brother Kim Pyong-Il.

"What he has to try to do is to broaden his power base with the hardliners or with the reformists," Keith Howard, head of Korean studies at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, said in a telephone interview.

"He's also going to have to be very careful about the generals — they may very well try to stage a coup if they see things going in ways they don't like," he said.

"I am not convinced that this system can go on indefinitely," Mr. Howard said. "There must always be a danger of collapse."

"If you look at what happened in Eastern Europe, you can see that all it takes is a small catalyst to start something happening."

But so far at least, it appears all is going to plan for Kim Jong-Il.

On Tuesday night, Pyongyang radio declared that he was "at the top helm of the party, state and military," according to Naewoo Press, a semi-official news agency in South Korea which monitors northern media.

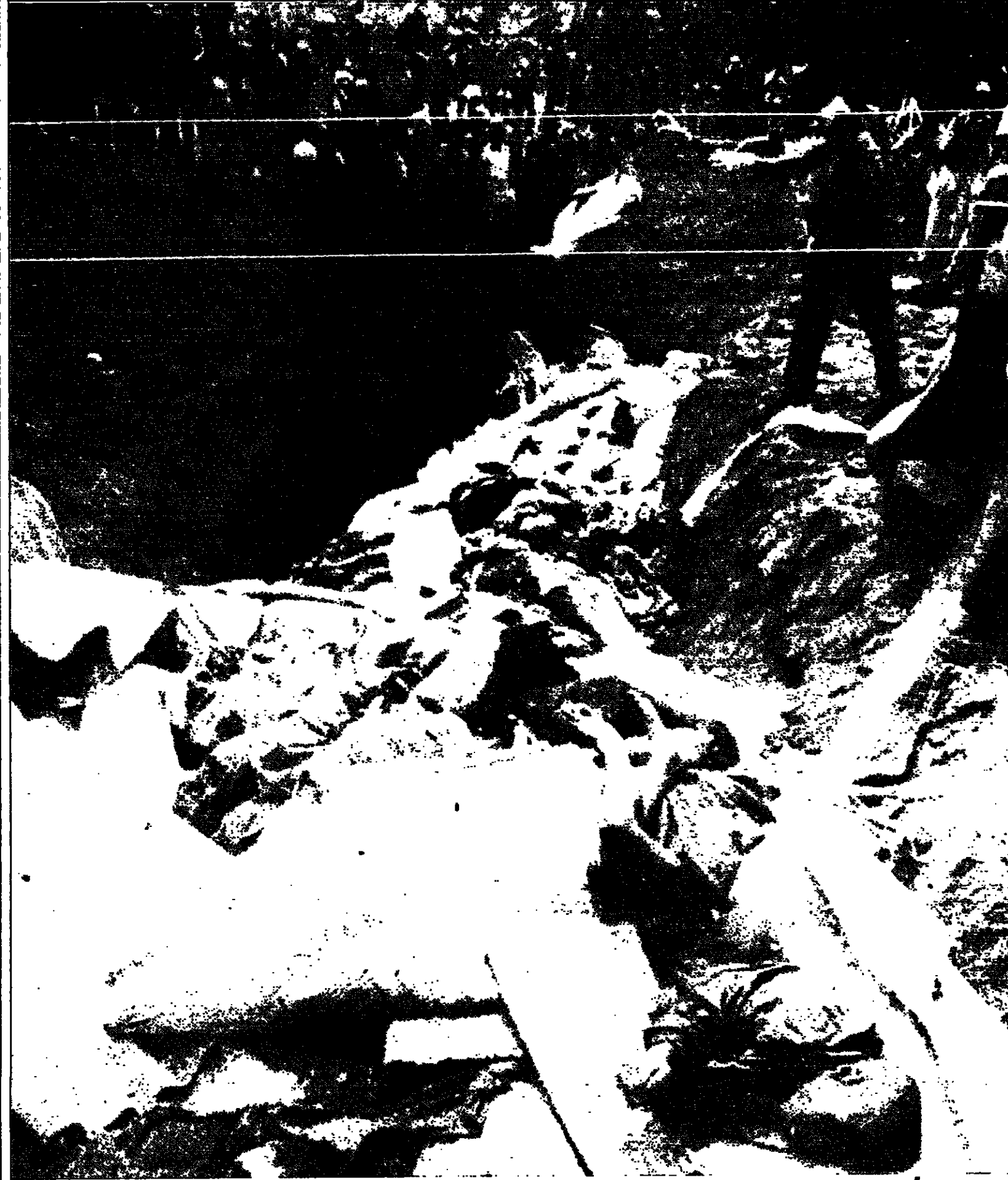
These are the three crucial sectors Kim Jong-Il must secure to ensure his power base against any challenge, the analysts said.

"The indications are all there that he is going to be declared president and party general secretary within a few days," Mr. Breen said.

Whether he survives is another matter.

"Kim Il-sung had a very special aura," Mr. Steinberg said. "The question is whether that aura can be taken over by Kim Jong-Il."

"I think no. Therefore I would argue that in the future we could see a resurgence of factionalism in North Korea."



A HUMAN WASTELAND: A Rwandan man throws the body of a baby into a mass grave in a refugee camp (AFP photo)

Days of dread in Rwanda's refugee camps

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

GOMA, Zaire — Volcanic dust and smoke cover the scenes of horror at the Zaire-Rwanda border. Amid the suffocating smog are endless scenes of panicked people, of corpses and people dying.

For five days, a tortuous exodus from Rwanda brought more than 1 million Rwandan refugees to Goma, Zaire. They now face hunger, thirst and death by disease in crowded camps, with aid only now starting to arrive.

The pitiful, makeshift camps have no sanitation and little food. Cholera is breaking out. The refugees drink bad water because the 50 tanker trucks needed to pump 10,000 or more liters each from Lake Kivu for chlorination aren't here.

The refugee horde needs a minimum of 5 million liters (1.3 million gallons) of water a day. As of Wednesday, almost exactly seven days after the mass migration started, there were only enough trucks for 160,000 liters (41,600 gallons).

Many will die of dehydration. Others may starve. The airport is overtaxed. There is chaos and crime. Soldiers rob refugees of their few possessions. I was robbed by Zairian soldiers, who fired six times in the air to coerce my cooperation. One man said I should be shot because I was an American and somehow at fault for not preventing the whole crisis.

The refugees arrived suddenly in Goma. Journalists and aid workers found the first refugees wandering in on Wednesday, July 13. Some soon settled down in the main traffic circle, Republic square, unsure where to head next. When the traffic circle was nearly full, people settled in the next traffic circle.

A group of journalists headed for the border, usually a 10-minute walk. But it was like swimming against the tide. Thousands were crossing by the hour. The border gate was closed. But people were being allowed around the sides.

They were being frisked, and any weapons were being confiscated. The piles of machetes soon reached

the thousands. On the other side of the border, stretching back from the intersection of Independence and Republic avenues, were people on foot and a line of overloaded vehicles as far as the eye could see.

As the day went on, the magnitude of the flood grew. Maybe 250,000 or more people arrived by nightfall.

Eyewitness report

Finally, the border gates were thrown down, and the flood widened. Disarmament efforts became more and more cursory.

By midday Friday, the line of refugees extended 25 kilometres into Rwanda.

There were reports of Rwandan soldiers drinking heavily, looting stores, robbing refugees and firing in the air as they retreated from rebel forces near the border.

The shooting continued into the night. In the morning, the refugees who had crossed told of being robbed by Zairian soldiers.

The flood seemed to ease a little Saturday. The estimates of the refugees arriving in Zaire varied from 250,000 to well over 600,000. Many more people were still lining up.

They grabbed every metres of land. Some fields were so densely populated that it was impossible to lie down. People slept standing up. The acrid smoke of the cookfires filled the air.

On Sunday, a day when the rebel forces moved into the Rwandan town of Gisenyi just across the border, we heard mortar fire throughout the day, steadily growing closer.

The flood of refugees increased. People with panic on their faces sought refuge and were joined by government troops. We later heard that maybe 300,000 or more people crossed that day.

As I drove to the airport Sunday, four Zairian soldiers flagged me down at gunpoint. One of them fired in the air. They yelled through the half-opened window, "dollars dollars" a shot in the air.

I gave them \$20. They wanted more. More shots.

They took my wallet. Fifty metres later, another soldier flagged me down at gunpoint. He motioned I would give him a ride. I drove back to our hotel and he hopped out, offering a "merci beaucoup."

On Monday, a group of journalists drove back to the border. We saw bodies from stampedes that had killed from 30 to 50 refugees, mostly children. Belongings that had been dropped in terror lay scattered. Survivors picked through the debris. Some of the injured lay waiting for help, suffering in near silence.

No one but soldiers were at the crossing. The border gates were gone, torn away. But only a handful of people crossed. It was eerily quiet after the previous four days of chaos. The only sounds were the soldiers clearing the chambers of guns stacked in huge piles.

The ripped bodies of mortar victims lay near the border, along with other stampede victims. The flood of refugees was over, but the misery was just starting.

West Bank children frolic at camp in Israel

By Brian Bergstein
Reuters

ASHKELON, Israel — In an Israeli national park just outside this seaside town, four Palestinian girls from the West Bank begin to dance as one of counsellors at Mukhayam Al Aftal Camp plays Arabic music on a keyboard.

"They have no chance to live like that — free, at the sea, to play, to do whatever they want," said Manal Tufahak, a 30-year-old social worker from the West Bank town of Nablus, long a focus of Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation.

Ms. Tufahak, known as the mother of the camp, and about 25 other social workers employed by Israel operate Mukhayam Al Aftal.

She said Palestinian parents sometimes flinch at the idea of their children at a camp in Israel, but are reassured by the composition of the staff.

Although Israel picks up the \$200,000 cheque for running the camp, the campers and counsellors are Palestinians.

"We tell them that we live with them and we take care of them," said Ms. Tufahak. "And when the kids go home and tell their parents about it, they're not worried that the camp is in Israel."

About 180 West Bank children aged eight to 11, whose families use Israeli social welfare services, swim, dance, play sports and learn arts and crafts there each week.

Eli Tzur, coordinator of welfare in the occupied territories, said the camp also hosts blind and mentally retarded Palestinian children and youngsters from southern Lebanon during other one-week sessions.

The camp has existed for about 15 years, first in other cities in Israel. Unlike those at most summer camps, the children at Mukhayam Al Aftal are poor or orphaned.

"This is a certain continuation of our activities with their families," Mr. Tzur said. "I'm sorry I could not bring 5,000 children here from the West Bank. The problem is we don't have enough time and space to bring enough children."

Arish Mustafa, 11, said that although she misses her family in Jenin, West Bank, she enjoys swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, which she never saw until last year when she came to Mukhayam Al Aftal.

The camp sits fenced off from the rest of southern Israel's Ashkelon National Park, a bare 10-minute drive from the Gaza Strip. Children eat, sleep and play inside the camp and travel past ancient ruins on their short walk to the beach.

Before the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, began in the occupied lands in 1987, Israeli children from Ashkelon used to spend a day with the Palestinians at the camp, Mr. Tzur said.

Attendance dropped during the intifada, when mostly disabled and blind children took part.

Since then, numbers are up, but this could be the last year most children come to the camp.

Children from the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho no longer attend because the Israeli-PLO peace deal ended Israeli social services there.

Among topics at a fresh round of Israeli-PLO talks is "early empowerment," which would extend Palestinian administration of services in the West Bank beyond the modest Jericho enclave.

Mr. Tzur said the Palestinian authority, the administrative body in the self-rule zones, would run its own summer camps.

But if the children still wanted to come to Mukhayam Al Aftal, he would find private funding if necessary, he added.

Ms. Tufahak hopes the next round of negotiations between the PLO and Israel changes the make-up of the campers.

"We hope next year, if there is peace, we've talked about making the camp for Palestinian and Israeli kids," she said. "Why not? We must expect anything these days."

Mixed-marriage ban call highlights Muslim fears for the future

By Francis Curta
Agence France-Presse

SARAJEVO — A call by a Bosnian Muslim leader for mixed marriages to be outlawed is highlighting fears Muslims have for their very survival in a disintegrating country.

Of the 4.3 million people living in Bosnia-Herzegovina before the war, some 31 per cent were Serb, 17 per cent Croat and 43 per cent Sunni Muslim. Mixed marriages accounted for 35 per cent of the total.

The international community hopes the latest Geneva plan for partition of the country between Muslims and Croats, on the one hand, and Serbs on the other will at least dampen the fighting.

But it will not settle the question of the country's national identity.

Some Muslims fear they are to be squeezed between Serb foes and Croat allies within a confederation of uncertain future, after losing vast tracts of land to the Serbs' campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

"Without Islam Muslim Bosnians are zeros. Only through Islam can they reach national unity, become serious and become a respectable factor in the Balkans and in Europe," the mufti of Zenica in central Bosnia recently said in a newspaper interview.

"Otherwise, they will become easy prey for various interests in Bosnia," Halil-Efendi Mehic said.

"Bosnian Muslims are too

much alienated from their religious traditions," he added, pointing to the fact that Islamic names are sometimes their only link with their cultural background.

It is therefore necessary to stop mixed marriages which are "diluting the Muslim body," he said.

The Ljiljan newspaper quoted a letter the mufti sent to the local ruling Party of Democratic Action (SDA), calling for legislation to ban marriages between Muslim women and non-Muslims.

"Experience has shown that in mixed marriages between Muslim and non-Muslims, already in the first generation Muslim national identity has been erased. This is unacceptable and lethal, particularly at this time when

all means are being used to destroy the Muslim nation," he said.

Bosnian Muslim leader Mustafa Ceric told AFP that after 45 years of forced assimilation under the communist regime, the time had come for temporary "isolation."

"For the sake of clarifying the meaning of religion and nationality, it is necessary for the (ethnic) groups to live in some sort of isolation."

"I don't think we are threatened" by mixed marriages, but "we think it would be another mistake if we closed our eyes and continued the practice," he said.

"We need to make clear our identity and what we are supposed to be. I feel threatened, I feel insecure because I am different in my

religion and my nationality," Mr. Ceric added.

Muslims in Bosnia have been subjected to "genocide" and the western world has failed to protect them, even though they are supposed to be part of Europe.

Because of this, Bosnian Muslims "are developing a solidarity, based sometimes on patriotism and which, sometimes, translates into religious feeling," he added.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose forces have killed or forced hundreds of thousands of Muslims to flee, has "contributed more to Islamic awareness among the Bosnian Muslims than 50 years of preaching," he added.

Mr. Ceric, who studied at the University of Chicago,

also said he feared European cultural influence which was often just "garbage."

"Europe is offering us alcoholism, prostitution, drugs, pornography (...). Alcohol is on offer on every Sarajevo street corner. Small Muslim children are exposed to that. When we say this is wrong, they say this is Islamisation, but that is not the case."

"If we continue this way we are going to have AIDS here. We have a responsibility to warn society that we are not going to adopt European cultural garbage," he said.

Asked if he feared Islamic fundamentalist influence when accepting aid from countries such as Iran, Mr. Ceric said his country needed help from all sides.

"If someone comes to help, should I ask him if he is an Islamic fundamentalist? If he says yes, what do I say? Get out?"

"Europe doesn't allow others to help us," he added, referring to the arms embargo against his country.

On the proposed division of the country under the terms of the Geneva peace plan Mr. Ceric said the country now needed peace even though the West was forcing it to accept seizure of territory by the Serbs.

"If Europe has decided that immorality is morality then all right, we haven't force enough to change this logic."

But times will change, he added. "Divine justice" will be done.

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TERRA	IRON	NINA
SHELL	ASST	TER

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THE PRIVATE LIFE OF AN OYSTER? THAT'S RIDICULOUS! THERE'S NO SUCH THING!

OH, YEAH? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THAT SHELL?

BY DAVE COVERLY

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vestment	38 Writing tools
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Industrialists
come global
minister says

capital markets had
rapidly in recent years.
As against a few hundred
million rupees raised in
1970s, the primary market
raised 270 billion rupees
(billion) in fiscal 1993,
which ended in March
said.

In addition, mutual funds
soaked up 113 million rupees
(\$3.7 billion) last year, he
said. But despite the growing
many deficiencies remain
in disclosure standards, transparency, Mr. Rangarajan
said. "So much more information
and operational efficiency is needed."

Shri N. Rangarajan, chairman
of the Securities and Exchange
Board of India, which regulates
the stock market, said the
NSE had the fastest growing
and settlement system of all
Indian bourses.

Trading on all bourses except
the NSE is by the unregulated
open outcry system where
mistakes are as high as 30 per cent. Trading on the
NSE is fully computerized with
information available in a
real-time basis.

The NSE is set up by
major state-owned banks, insurance
companies and financial
institutions. It began trading
in the debt market last month
and will move on to equities
by the end of the year.

SCOPE

DAY JULY 24, 1994

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to finish regular
routines before engaging in
amusements. An argument with
a friend is not serious, so forget
it.

LIRAS: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to be
lucky with others, or you could get
in trouble. Don't neglect a friend
in need of long standing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to let
others know you are not alone.
A new project needs more
study and evaluation before
only ahead with it.

AGITATION: (November 22 to December 21) Be more
obedient in dealing with others at
a better results. Use common
sense in motion and avoid
possible accidents.

APRIL: (December 22 to January 21) Plan how to
spend money instead of spending
it. You can afford to share
your vision to have
any situation.

QUARIES: (January 22 to February 21) A time to be
calm while going after
romantic. Be sure to use
money wisely at all times.

SEVEN: (February 22 to March 21) Take on a challenge
if you are doing it in the
right way. Get things done in a
positive manner.

by Roger J. Jordan

by Roger J. Jordan

by Roger J. Jordan

by Roger J. Jordan

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by Roger J. Jordan

by Roger J. Jordan

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 21/7/94	New York Close Date 22/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5260	1.5276
Deutsche Mark	1.9925	1.9980
Swiss Franc	1.3677	1.3552
French Franc	5.4635	5.4625
Japanese Yen	99.15	98.95
European Currency Unit	1.1990**	1.1990

Source: Reuters
* 100 Per 100
** European Unit of Account (E.U.A.)

European Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4.50	3.92	5.31
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.00	5.25	5.87
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.62	4.62	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.87	3.93	4.06	4.25
French Franc	5.37	5.43	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93	2.00	2.18
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.81	5.94	6.18

Source: Reuters
* 100 Per 100
** European Unit of Account (E.U.A.)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.693	0.696
Sterling Pound	1.0607	1.0660
Deutsche Mark	0.4356	0.4378
Swiss Franc	0.5120	0.5148
French Franc	0.1271	0.1277
Japanese Yen	0.6991	0.7026
Dutch Guilder	0.3872	0.3891
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0339	0.0337
Belgian Franc	---	---

Source: Reuters
* 100 Per 100
** European Unit of Account (E.U.A.)

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8300
Lebanese Lira	0.0403500	0.0418750
Saudi Riyal	0.18418	0.18620
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3700
Omani Riyal	0.18820	0.18930
Egyptian Pound	0.2040	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7830	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.18840	0.18930
Greek Drachma	0.26850	0.30260
Cypriot Pound	1.35350	1.45150

Source: Reuters
* 100 Per 100
** European Unit of Account (E.U.A.)

EU invites Arab, Israeli and European companies to attend gathering in Cairo

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Union (EU), which is playing a key economic role parallel to the political efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, is organising a gathering of Arab, European and Israeli companies in a bid for regional integration.

The gathering, formally titled "Partnership European Union-Middle East", will be held in Cairo Dec. 6-7, and, according to a press release, 311 companies have already been selected to attend the forum from among 1,400 ap-

licants. Eventually, the conference is expected to attract up to 1,200 companies, the EU said.

"The event... offers an opportunity to broaden contacts, develop common business opportunities and work towards the development of peace through prosperity in the region," said a EU leaflet entitled "Coming Together in Cairo."

The forum is an EU-sponsored initiative to "promote ties between firms in the European Union and in the Middle East and to promote regional integration in the Middle East," it said.

Since the outset of the breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian track of peace negotiations in September, the European Union has been engaged in various efforts to bring Arabs and Israelis together at various forums, including heavy political debates and media gatherings.

"We believe that peace has to take roots between people for it to be durable and comprehensive," says a senior European diplomat in Amman. "The Union is thus very much active at various levels to bring about interaction between Arabs and Israelis with a view to fostering understanding of each other."

Sectors expected to be represented in the Cairo forum include:

- Food processing and packaging;
- Construction/infrastructure/environmental technology;
- Garments/textiles;
- Tourism;
- Electro-mechanical products;
- Engineering/metal working;
- Electronics; and
- Medical equipment/pharmaceuticals/plastics.

Companies from Jordan, Egypt, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israel as well as the six Arab states of the Gulf are expected to take part in the Cairo meeting. The EU also hopes that Syrian and Lebanese businessmen could be brought in formally at a later stage (Syria and Lebanon are officially staying away from the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process saying regional cooperation and business contacts with Israelis could come only after the bilateral political issues are satisfactorily resolved).

Beyond Arab and Israeli business contacts with European firms, a key objective of the forum appears to be to make contacts between Arab and Israeli companies ahead of the possible end to the Arab trade boycott of Israel as part of an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

The EU, particularly Germany, has been calling for an end to the secondary and tertiary effects of the decades-old Arab boycott of Israel. The primary boycott involves Israeli companies while the secondary and tertiary boycott is targeted at companies linked with Israel and with companies doing business with firms which are boycotted for their links with the Jewish state.

Potential participants in the Cairo conference are expected to be briefed in detail about the forum at a "Partnership Seminar" to be held in Amman's Forte Grand Hotel on Tuesday and again on Sunday. The event is organised by MEBA Limited, an Amman-based business consulting firm.

According to MEBA, the Cairo forum is heavily subsidised by the EU to allow even small companies to attend and "is a golden opportunity for Jordanian firms to gain international exposure."

Details of firms selected to the partnership will be featured in a promotional catalogue which will be distributed throughout the European member states to help identify suitable partners.

The Cairo forum will also serve the purpose of saving businessmen time and money-consuming travel and management costs to establish business contacts with European firms.

Second Jordanian bank opens in W. Bank

AMMAN (R) — Jordan-Gulf Bank will open its first branch in the Israeli-occupied West Bank Monday, the second Jordanian bank to resume operations under a Jordanian-Israeli banking accord, a senior bank official said.

"We will be getting the licence from the Israeli civil administration authorities in a small ceremony in Ramallah Sunday, and our branch in Nablus will be ready to business on Monday," Mohammad Jamjoun, general manager of Jordan-Gulf Bank, told Reuters Saturday.

The bank plans to open other branches after two to three months, depending on the performance of the first one, Mr. Jamjoun said. It has 28 branches in Jordan.

A Jordanian-Israeli financial accord signed last year allowed the reopening of branches of Jordanian banks closed after Israel's 1967 occupation of the West Bank.

The bank, a result of a merger with Mashreq Bank in 1993, took over four pre-1967 branches in the West Bank — Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus.

Mr. Jamjoun said his bank, along with regular services would focus on commercial banking and would target business from international aid flows once infrastructure activity picks up.

Jordan-Gulf Bank's assets at the end of 1993 stood at 104 million dinars (\$149.42 million), deposits at 61.5 million dinars (\$88.36 million) and credit facilities of 43.5 million dinars (\$62.5 million).

Bank of Jordan, the first Jordanian bank to resume business after the Israeli-PLO peace accord, opened its second branch in the territories in June.

Italy's top drug firm threatens to move abroad

MILAN (R) — Italy's largest drugs company threatened to move abroad Friday as the government announced plans for more cuts in medicine prices to save money for the country's creaking national health service.

Menarini Industrie Farmaceutiche, which has sales of 1.75 trillion lire (\$1.1 billion), took out full page advertisements in newspapers to say it intended to switch production to Germany.

They appeared hours before Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet, pledged to slashing Italy's mammoth budget deficit, approved a draft law designed to save some five trillion lire (\$3.2 billion) in a restructured health service.

Health Minister Raffaele Costa said the draft law, which must be approved by parliament, included plans for a further 10 per cent temporary cut in the price of medicines in 1995.

He said Menarini's action was unreasonable. "The price of drugs has got to be cut," Mr. Costa told Italian television. "The threat to go abroad can not influence us. Even the pharmaceutical industry must participate in this effort."

Menarini, which employs 2,977 people in Italy, said it would switch production to its plant in Germany where it had idle capacity.

"With this price structure, the lowest in Europe, we have no chance of remaining competitive in Italy and so we are going," Menarini Managing Director Lucia Aleotti told Reuters.

Italy's pharmaceutical industry, Europe's third largest after Germany and France, had been locked in dispute with the government since Rome unleashed a series of reforms at the end of last year aimed at lightening the burden of health spending.

In a move which was intended on a partial liberalisation after years of rigid state control, Rome said drugs prices would be set according to a European Union average.

It also introduced sweeping reorganisation of the way medicines were subsidised by health authorities.

Ireland, Luxembourg head EU single currency applicants

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Ireland and Luxembourg are leading the European Union's (EU's) list of countries likely to meet the economic conditions for a single currency, a senior European Commission official has said.

The official said the EU's executive was proposing to exempt the two countries from a monitoring procedure to make sure that countries of the 12-nation community lower their budget deficits and public debts.

The commission's proposal, if endorsed by a council of EU ministers, would amount to a weakening of the strict economic conditions for cur-

rency union, because it would mean overlooking Ireland's high public debt.

The EU's Maastricht treaty states that countries wanting to join a single currency bloc by 1998 must cut their budget deficits to three per cent of gross domestic product, and their public debt to 60 per cent of GDP.

It lays down that the EU should spotlight those countries falling short of the two criteria, and punish them with fines or bans on new EU loans if they do not follow advice to bring their deficits and debt under control.

The official said that all EU countries except Luxem-

bourg and Ireland would be getting reports by the end of this year criticising their debt and deficit performances.

Luxembourg meets both criteria. But Ireland's public debt, currently at 93 per cent of GDP, is still well above the 60 per cent target.

The official pointed to a loophole in the Maastricht treaty which says countries making satisfactory progress towards the targets could be accepted into the single currency bloc.

"Ireland already meets the deficit criteria. Its public debt dropped from 116 per cent in 1987 to 93 per cent this year and should fall even further."

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Goodwill Games finally opening after two days of organisational troubles

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The United States got off to a winning start in basketball, four world weightlifting records were set and Russian President Boris Yeltsin officially opened the Goodwill Games Saturday.

The U.S. basketball team, led by Michael Finley of Wisconsin with 16 points, beat Argentina 81-60 before Argentina scored 11 of the final 13 points.

"There was never any doubt in anyone's mind who was going to win the game," U.S. coach George Raveling said. "But we have to play better to beat Puerto Rico and Russia."

In weightlifting, Sergei Syrtsov of Russia broke three of his own world records in the snatch, clean-and-jerk and overall total in the 99 kilogramme (218 pound) class. He lifted 191 kilos (421 pounds) in the snatch and 227.5 (501 pounds) in the clean-and-jerk

and had a total of 417.5 (920.4 pounds).

Syrtsov, 28, silver medalist at the 1992 Olympics and 1993 world championships, had set the previous records at the 1994 European championships in the Czech Republic.

Andrei Chmerkin, a 325-pound (147 kg) giant known as the world's strongest man, broke his own world record in the snatch in the 108 kilogramme (over 238 pound) class. He lifted 201 kilos (443.12 pounds) to better his previous mark of 200.5 (442 pounds).

At the end of 1992, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) established new weight classes, creating new opportunities for world records.

The Goodwill Games, the first major sports event in Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union, were officially opened at a ceremony attended by a near-capacity crowd of 70,000 at Kirov

Stadium.

"I'm sure four years from now our hearts will be moved when we recall these sports events on the banks of the River Neva," Yeltsin said.

"This is a joyous meeting of old friends," he said. "The line between politicians and athletes are very close, and we understand each other through them."

Ted Turner, the Atlanta-based entrepreneur who founded the games in the mid-1980s as a chance for athletes to compete free from political pressure, said, "Our two countries have for too many years not enjoyed the opportunity to know each other through sports."

The games' flame was lit by two fireballs which were guided along an invisible wire to a collision point over the cauldron.

It was a relatively smooth opening after two days of organisational troubles.

Officials pushed the swim-

ming back a day to Sunday to work on a faulty filter that was left the water in the Ska pool a murky green.

Also Friday, U.S. basketball team coach George Raveling had a fit when his team's practice was delayed because the Chinese team was scheduled to go on court at the same time.

The South Korean handball team had to cancel its game after missing a plane and arriving late, and there are concerns about St. Petersburg's drinking water, slow ticket sales and transportation problems.

U.S. swim team spokesman Charlie Snyder tried to be positive, noting that a one-day delay in swimming was nothing compared to recent changes in Russia.

"Considering all else that's happened in this country, this little delay isn't a big deal," Snyder said. "But putting it off a day was the only way to go considering the water."

All swim events will now be held Sunday instead of spread over two days.

U.S. 50-metre world record-holder Tom Jager, who will swim against Russian Olympic champion Alexander Popov, said the move to delay the swimming was right.

"No, I wouldn't jump into that water the way it looked

when I saw it," Jager said.

Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly said an inspection Friday showed a troublesome filtration system was still pumping murky green water. But Snyder suggested the

wound was self-inflicted. Kelly said other venues were "virtually ready" with only last-minute problems to be solved.

"The problem is they put charcoal directly into the filter rather than in a cloth sack and then into the filter," Snyder said. "Two days ago when I went to the pool for the first time the water was a brown-black colour, this time it was green. The first time you could see the black lines on the bottom, today you couldn't."

Even without swimming, Saturday's first day of competition was full with men's and women's beach volleyball, men's basketball, weightlifting and boxing.

These are the third Goodwill Games. The 1986 games in Moscow and Seattle in 1990 combined for a loss of more than \$60 million. Kelly said officials no longer hope to break even in St. Petersburg.

Russia is spending \$75 million on the games, mostly for renovation of the 11 competition sites for more than 2,000 athletes from 55 countries.

Big jockey Kinane strikes again in Diamond Stakes race

ASCOT, England (R) — Big race jockey Michael Kinane struck again Saturday, partnering 12-1 King's Theatre to a comfortable success in the group one King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

Irishman Kinane, who had an outstanding record in major races around the world, took up the running on the three-year-old colt in the final furlong (200 metres).

He readily held off the challenge of White Muzzle (9-2), ridden by Japanese champion Yutaka Taka, to win by one and a quarter lengths.

Outside Wagon Master (20-1), the mount of Richard Hills, hung on to take third place two and a half lengths behind White Muzzle in the prestigious mid-summer event.

There was drama at the beginning of the race when Ezzoud unseated jockey Walter Swinburn. The colt raced the full 12 furlongs (2.4 km).

In the final 150 metres, Ezzoud veered across the front runners, forcing King's Theatre to the inside.

But Kinane quickly regained control and King's Theatre went on to land his major prize for trainer Henry Cecil and owner Sheikh Mohammed. The Sheikh won the race in 1993 with Opera House.

The big disappointment was Epsom Derby winner Erhaab, who started 7-2 favourite, but never got in an effective blow.

The stewards inquired into Swinburn's fall from Ezzoud at the start of the race.

Swinburn was taken to hospital and a course spokesman said: "He is being X-rayed and he is as comfortable as you would expect, considering the bump he took."

Having viewed video replays of the start, the stewards decided the fall was caused by Ezzoud ducking to the left as the stalls opened, resulting in Swinburn hitting the gate and becoming unseated.

Kinane's successes in recent years include the Melbourne Cup, the Epsom Derby, the Belmont Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Saturday's victory was his second in the King George, following Belmont in the 1990, also for Sheikh Mohammed and trainer Cecil.

Cecil said of King's Theatre: "After two seconds in the English Derby and Irish Derby he deserved to win today."

After his failures in the classics, doubt had been cast on the colt's ability to stay Saturday's 2.4 km ride.

There were also questions about whether the good to

firm going would suit King's Theatre and it was only in the last 24 hours before the race that connections decided to let the horse take his chance, aware that the course would be watered overnight.

Cecil said: "The ground was actually perfect. There had been plenty of water to take the jar out."

Kinane, using all his experience, was able to brush aside the problems caused by Ezzoud and then quickly go for a decisive gap which appeared towards the inside as Wagon Master began to come to the end of his tether.

White Muzzle, who also finished second in 1993, had to snatch up momentarily as Kinane and King's Theatre burst through, but it was not enough to affect the outcome.

Erhaab, ridden by Willie Carson, also suffered somewhat at the hands of Ezzoud as the riderless horse darted in from the outside halfway up the straight. But the interference did not appear to have been fatal to the colt's chances and on the day the best horse won on merit.

French-trained Apple Tree, winner of the Epsom Coronation Cup and a top race in France this season, ran on creditably for Thierry Jarnet to be fourth of the 12 runners.

Edberg advances to semifinals of ATP Washington Classic

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg won his seventh straight match over Aaron Krickstein here late Friday, advancing to the ATP Washington Classic semifinals with a 6-4, 6-1 victory.

Joining Edberg U.S. veteran David Wheaton and two former farmboys from opposite sides of the Indian Ocean, Australia's Jason Stoltenberg and Byron Black of Zimbabwe.

Edberg attacked Krickstein from the start, breaking him in the first game of both sets and extending his mastery over the U.S. player.

"I kept up the pace and never gave him a chance," Edberg said. "I came to the net and I could see that (I had frustrated him). It has worked before."

Krickstein made three double faults in key situations to give Edberg breaks in the seventh game of the first set and the fifth and seventh games of the second.

"I can't give him any games," Krickstein said. "He was confident and I didn't serve well. I missed too many shots."

Black, raised on an avocado farm where his father has five cows, will face Edberg after eliminating Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 7-5, 6-4. The world's top rated doubles player reached his third solo semifinal in as many weeks.

"It will be much the same as Aaron," Edberg said. "He will go to the net more and he mixes up his game, but I will have to do the same things."

Stoltenberg, who ousted



Stefan Edberg

was tilting his way. After the rain, I came out aggressive and got a break straight away.

Stoltenberg had played in five straight ATP events before taking a rest last week. The holiday paid off.

"I didn't expect too much here. My preparation wasn't ideal," he said. "I was pretty drained. I felt like I had a lot of tennis. I went to Orlando and took a week off. It helped me freshen up mentally."

Stoltenberg faces Wheaton next. Both are nine-year veterans who won their second career titles earlier this year. Stoltenberg's came at the U.S. Clay finals in April. Wheaton won two weeks ago at Newport. They have split six career meetings, with Stoltenberg winning all three on hardcourts, the surface used here.

"We have always played close matches," Stoltenberg said. "Neither has a great advantage."

Wheaton served well in eliminating Australia's Michael Tebbutt 7-5, 6-4. Tebbutt, who departed quickly for a friend's wedding in Arizona, had 14 aces but could not break Wheaton.

"In both sets, he played one bad game on his serve, Wheaton said. "He has a big serve. He just double faulted and made unforced errors each time and I had consistent sets."

"I played a couple of loose games and it cost me," Tebbutt said. "I just lost my concentration. I needed to be more aggressive on his second serves."

Wilkins signs with Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — Free agent forward Dominique Wilkins, the ninth-leading scorer in NBA history, agreed to a three-year contract with the Boston Celtics Friday.

"It feels great," Wilkins said from Chicago, where he is practising with Dream Team II, which will represent the United States at the World Championships in Toronto next month. "Just the tradition alone there gets you ready to play. I always loved playing in the Boston Garden and now I'll be playing there all the time."

Celtics President Red Auerbach confirmed the deal Friday night.

"There's no sense keeping it a secret because it's out," Auerbach said. "M.K. Carr and Jan Volk went out there today and finished it off."

Carr, hired as the Celtics' head of basketball operations last month, and Volk, his assistant, met with Wilkins Friday in Chicago.

"He knows what it takes to put good talent together," Wilkins said of Carr. "They showed interest in me for a while. It didn't just happen overnight. We've been moving right along."

Wilkins, 34, was traded in February to the Los Angeles Clippers by the Atlanta Hawks for forward Danny Manning. He made \$3.5 million last season and became an unrestricted free agent July 1.

"I had a great year despite the senseless trade," Wilkins said. "I had a great year. I'm feeling as good as I've felt in my career and now I think I'll end my career with the Celtics. I'm happy to be there and looking forward to doing the best I can for the people there."

The last offer from the Clippers to re-sign him was a \$7.5 million deal over three years, with a \$800,000 bonus for making the playoffs. No other details were available on the Celtics deal except that it was for three years.

Auerbach said Wilkins has plenty to offer the Celtics, who missed the playoffs last season with a 32-50 record.

Missing

Filipina maid Mary Jane S. Canillas has left her employer's home and has not returned.

Anyone having information on her whereabouts, please contact Tel. 812-336 or the nearest police station for a good reward.

Those sheltering her are liable for prosecution.

Foreman to get yet another shot at title

LAS VEGAS (AP) This scenario is nowhere to be found in the book "How to Become a Heavyweight Champion."

Then again, nothing George Foreman has done since returning to boxing has been by the book.

Foreman gets another, even more inexplicable, shot at the heavyweight title Nov. 5 when he meets Michael Moorer for the WBA and IBF versions of the split crown.

His credentials for getting the title fight? Certainly not a loss to Tommy Morrison in his last bout, followed by a year of sometimes questionable fight analysis for HBO.

The 45-year-old Foreman will be the opponent for Moorer's first defence for one reason: He can still sell tickets.

"I am not going to hear that stuff. I'm not going to take it," Foreman said Friday

as he and Moorer got together at the MGM Grand Resort to hype the fight.

"The public hasn't seen anyone whip me. That's why they'll buy this fight."

Seven years after he began his first comeback, Foreman makes another comeback against Moorer, who won the heavyweight titles in April with a 12-round decision over Evander Holyfield.

While it is the same old big George, this time he comes prepared with a new form. The cuddly fighter who eats his way to the title has been replaced by raging George Foreman, a fighter on a mission.

"I'm not playing games anymore. The rage is back on again," Foreman said. "Everybody said I was too nice to my opponents, that I would back off when they got hurt. Not now. This is the only way

I can win. I've been forced to use my rage."

Foreman, who looked very much the part of an aging fighter when Morrison confused him by boxing his way to a 12-round win last June, will be getting his second title shot since returning to the ring in 1987.

Foreman has fought only four times since losing his bid for the heavyweight championship in a 12-round decision in April 1991 to Holyfield.

"You look at that fight and I staggered Holyfield," Foreman said. "He couldn't do anything in the last couple of rounds but I was just too nice to finish it."

Foreman is a 3-1 underdog in the MGM grand sports book for the fight against Moorer, who had to restrain his trainer, Teddy Atlas, from going after Foreman

during an appearance Thursday in Los Angeles.

Foreman was working as an HBO commentator when Moorer beat Holyfield and, in an on-air tirade that was later excised from the taped replay by the network, suggested that Holyfield actually won the fight and that the decision might have been fixed.

"This is personal now," Moorer said. "George has been running his mouth all over his place. I was shocked by it. I never heard anyone degrade someone in my life like that."

Moorer suggested that Foreman's carefully crafted public image was all image and little substance.

"He's phony," Moorer said. "He has kids and others looking up to him like he's God. But he's phony, he's a fake."

Kenya's Sigei chops more than six seconds off world 10,000m record

OSLO, Norway (AP) — William Sigei got the message in last year's 10,000 metres: Avoid heavy traffic and go for the record.

The Kenyan, running solo in the last 2.4 kilometres (1.5 miles), chopped more than six seconds off the world record set on the same track by countryman Yobes Ondieki in Friday's Bislett Games Grand Prix track and field meet.

"I new I had a good chance to break the record," said Sigei, who was running a year go. "But it wasn't easy to run so many laps all by myself and I never expected to beat the record by such a big margin."

Sigei, 24, who is based in Oslo and Stockholm, The weather conditions help. Scandinavia's cool temperatures are perfect for long-distance running.

A world cross-country champion in 1993 and '94, Sigei showed great promise when he clocked a personal best of 13:6.72 in the 5,000 metres recently, one of the fastest times of the year.

Ethiopia's 10,000-metre champion Haile Gebreselasse broke the 5,000 metre world mark with a time of 12:56.96 in early June at Heagelo, the Netherlands. Sigei says that record is out of his reach.

"Not this summer, but maybe next year," said Sigei, who is skipping the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, but will compete in the Commonwealth Games next month in Canada.

Dennis Mitchell turned in another sterling performance, leading from the start to win the 100 metres in 9.94



Kenya's William Sigei holds a bouquet of flowers while celebrating his new 10,000m world record he set at the Bislett Games

Friday. Sigei shattered fellow Kenyan Yobes Ondieki's record by more than six seconds clocking 26min 52.23sec (AFP photo)

metres have been recorded at Oslo and Stockholm. The weather conditions help. Scandinavia's cool temperatures are perfect for long-distance running.

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strikes
stakes race

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in six
record

tered fellow Kenyan Yabu was more than six seconds 2.23sec (AFP photo)

who now competes for Austria, was third in 13.43. Gey, 38, at age 38 one of the oldest athletes in the sport finished sixth and lost 3.47.

Two-time Olympic champion jumper Jackie Joyner-Kersey won the women's long jump at 7.33 metres. Jeike Drechsjer of Germany was second at 7.29.

Joyner-Kersey fouled on her first attempt, but the American responded well when Drechsjer took the lead with her longest effort of the evening in the fifth and last round. Joyner-Kersey jumped last in the field, answered with her second longest jump of the season in late May, she set an American record of 7.49 at the New York Games.

Owen Torrence, another U.S. Olympic champion, won the women's 200 metres in 21.94, a seasonal best. Ina Privolova of Russia was runner-up in 22.19.

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Bulgarian midfielder Hristo Stoichkov lies on the ground after missing a goal during Bulgaria's third-place playoff match against Sweden at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles July 16 (AFP photo)

Bulgarian wants footballers canonised

LOVECH, Bulgaria (R) — A Bulgarian has offered a large donation to the Orthodox Church if it canonises two of the footballers who have thrilled the country by taking fourth place in the

World Cup. The state news agency BTA has said Kiril Donev promised to give the 250,000 leva (\$5,000) to a 19th century monastery in central Bulgaria if it makes striker Hristo Stoichkov and

defender Petar Hrabchev into saints. Donev pledged to double the sum if the abbot, Bishop Nestor, agreed to have their faces painted on the exterior walls of the church. BTA said the bid by

the trader from the village of Alexandrovo in the Lovech region was "the fruit of his uncontrollable passion for football." The monastery has not yet replied to the request.

Jordan wins opening match in women's handball tourney

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Jordan National Women's Handball team beat its Cypriot counterpart 22-20 in the opening match of the Jordan Handball Championship Saturday.

The week-long championship includes in addition to Jordan and Cyprus the national teams of Iraq and teams representing the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Majd Qaisat deputised for Her Royal Highness Princess Haya in opening the championship at the Sports Palace at Al Hussein Youth City.

The Jordanian team scored the first two goals which gave the players a push forward since the Cypriot team did not seem so competitive in the first half. This gave the Jordanian side the advantage to move faster and more accurately. Jordan's substitute goalkeeper Firas Kilani made some incredible saves, but was injured, forcing coach Ziad Khraisat to bring in Lina Jaser for some time.

Lamia Jalad looked very comfortable in scoring for the Jordanian team ending the first half with Jordan leading 14-8.

In the second half the Cyp-

riot team looked more aggressive in the attack and more determined to play a better game.

Eleftheria led the Cypriot team to several successful attempts, giving the Jordanians a hard time defending their goal, and with less than six minutes remaining the two teams were tied 15-15. The Cypriot team advanced 16-15 but Rana Laham used her experience to give the Jordanian side another tie.

The Cypriot team again took the lead 18-16, again prompting Khraisat to bring in Lina Jaser to the court.

The last five minutes were fast and decisive for both teams and thanks to Rana Laham, the Jordanian team tied the match 20-20. The team kept the pressure on the Cypriots to end the game 22-20.

The president for the Cypriot team Aristos was sent out of court by the referee during the game for shouting and protesting at the referees' decisions.

"It is not fair. The referee was on the Jordanian side," said Aristos.

Cypriot player Eleftheria said that his team was looking forward for its next match. Today the Iraqi team will play Yarmouk University at 5 p.m. at Yarmouk University

O.J. Simpson says he is '100 per cent innocent'

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson confidently declared at his arraignment Friday that he was "absolutely 100 per cent not guilty" of murdering his ex-wife and a friend.

Simpson spoke in a strong, clear voice that resonated around the packed courtroom when asked by superior court judge Cecil Mills how he pleaded to charges of murdering Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and 25-year-old waiter Ronald Goldman.

They were slashed and stabbed to death outside Nicole Simpson's Brentwood townhouse on the night of June 12. Simpson, 47, a former football star who became a television and movie celebrity, says he was at home waiting for a limousine to take him to the airport at the time of the killings.

Celebrated Los Angeles trial lawyer Johnnie Cochran joined the defence team in court for the first time, sitting beside lead defence attorney Robert Shapiro, who introduced him to Mills as one of his four co-counsel.

Simpson said the others were Gerald Uelman, who was in court, and F. Lee Bailey and Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, who were not present.

Among Cochran's more famous clients are riot beat-

ing victim Reginald Denny and pop superstar Michael Jackson.

Simpson's appearance at this superior court arraignment was in sharp contrast to the way he looked at his municipal court arraignment June 21.

Then, he looked dazed and confused and did not wear a tie, belt or shoelaces because he was under a suicide watch at the men's central jail in Los Angeles.

On Friday, dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and tie, he looked alert and confident, smiling at Shapiro and even giving a thumbs-up sign to someone in the public gallery after the hearing was over and he was being led out.

Mills, the superior court supervising judge, appointed his deputy, Lance Ito, as the trial judge. He said Ito would hold a hearing on motions filed by both sides next Friday, when he will be probably set a trial date.

Under California law, Simpson has the right to a trial within 60 days of Friday's arraignment, and Mills noted that Sept. 20 would be the 60th day.

Mills made a disclosure to the court that Ito was married to a Los Angeles police department captain, Margaret

Abdoudjaparov warms up for Tour de France finish with sprint win

LAC ST POINT, France (R) — Speed King Djamilidine Abdoudjaparov warmed up for the Paris finish in style by winning a massive sprint to take the penultimate stage of the Tour de France Saturday.

Uzbek Abdoudjaparov, set to claim the green jersey prized by all sprinters for the third time when the race ends Sunday, narrowly beat Slovak Jan Svorada and Italian Silvio Martinello at the end of a peaceful, 208.5-km ride from Morzine.

The only Asian to ride in the tour, who had won the first stage in Armentieres after a sprint marred by a spectacular crash, warned his rivals he would be the one to beat on the Champs Elysees.

Abdoudjaparov has mixed

memories of the famous Paris avenue where he fell with the green jersey on his shoulders in the last stage of the 1991 tour, before taking revenge with a brilliant win last year.

Race leader Miguel Indurain kept his cool in the pack while the sprinters were zig-zagging head down, and moved dramatically close to a fourth consecutive triumph.

"The most important thing was to avoid a crash," said Indurain, who retained a comfortable lead of five minutes 39 seconds on second-placed Piotr Ugrumov of Latvia.

The Paris podium should be completed by Italian Marco Pantani, third, a further one minute 40 seconds back after bringing excitement to

the race in the high climbs. Pantani had few opportunities to shine as the race left the Alps for a relatively undemanding stage featuring only one difficulty, the Col de la Faucille in the Jura Mountains.

The image of Belgian sprinter Peter de Clercq crossing the line at the top in front provided a symbol for an uneventful stage in which the peloton took a well-deserved rest.

"We're all tired and we decided to take it easy for a change," said Frenchman Luc Leblanc, fourth overall.

The race, particularly demanding this year because of stifling heat, lost two more riders Saturday.

Paris-Roubaix winner Andrei Tchmil of Moldova retired before the start and Belgian Marc Sergeant pulled out along the way, leaving only 117 out of 189 starters.

The action started only in the last few hundred metres in a sprint which saw Abdoudjaparov force his way to the front before lifting his clenched fist in the air on the finish line.

"The green jersey is just as important for me as the yellow one is for Indurain," he said.

Indurain will now make a triumphant entry in the French capital at the end of Sunday's last stage from the Eurodisney theme park, just outside Paris.

Video chain head bid \$145m for Miami Heat

MIAMI (R) — Wayne Huizenga, the billionaire head of a nation-wide chain of video stores, has offered \$143 million to buy the Miami Heat professional basketball team, the Miami Herald reported Friday.

Unnamed sources quoted by the newspaper said Miami's Arison family, which owns a majority interest in the NBA team, is interested

in the offer from Huizenga, the head of Blockbuster Entertainment Corporation.

The offer, the highest the Heat has received, may be retracted if Heat minority owners Lewis Schaffel and Billy Cunningham oppose it, the newspaper said.

Last November, the Heat rejected a \$130 million offer from Sidney Kimmel, a Philadelphia businessman.

The Arison family, which includes Carnival Corp Cruise Line chief Mickey Arison, along with the two smaller investors paid \$32.5 million to launch the NBA expansion franchise in 1987.

Huizenga already owns the Miami Dolphins football team, the Florida Marlins baseball team and the Florida Panthers hockey team —

ownership stakes unprecedented in major league sports.

Blockbuster has proposed building a \$1.4 billion amusement park and sports complex outside Miami, which would include new playing fields for the Marlins and Panthers and feature sports-oriented games and retail shops for tourists.



O.J. Simpson (C) talks with a court bailiff last month while his attorneys confer with the Judge Patti Jo McKay out of the courtroom during a procedural hearing in Los Angeles (AFP photo)

He said that being on the bench in a high profile case was "the worst position."

Ito's first action after being appointed was to grant a motion filed by Shapiro minutes after Friday's arraignment asking for a quick hearing on a second motion.

Ito scheduled a hearing Monday to hear arguments on the second motion, which demands that the prosecution share with the defence all its scientific evidence, such as

blood samples and droplets found at the scene and in Simpson's driveway, so that it can carry out its own DNA testing.

In his filing, Shapiro noted that the prosecution intended to start DNA testing in a Maryland laboratory Tuesday.

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NORTH

♠ A K Q

♥ A 8 4

♦ J 6 4 3

♣ A 7

EAST

♠ 4

♥ J 7 6 5

♦ A Q 10 8 2

♣ K 9 5

SOUTH

♠ J 10 9 7 6 5 3 2

♥ K 9 2

♦ Void

♣ Q 10

The bidding:

South West North East

Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

4 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

A squad from New Jersey won the third division of the Grand National Team Championship beating a Michigan team in the final. With

declarer's play of a standard as high as shown on this deal, they should soon be challenging for higher honors.

South's two hearts was a transfer to spades and North's three clubs was an advance cue-bid promising a maximum no trump and good spade support. South went directly to slam.

West led a trump, won perfor in

dummy. Declarer, Feng Liu of New Brunswick, N.J., ruffed a diamond, then used the table's two high trumps as entries for two more diamond ruffs. The ace of hearts was the means of getting to the board for another diamond ruff, but that suit failed to split evenly. This was now the position:

NORTH

♠ 8 4

♥ J

♦ A 7

EAST

♠ J 7

♥ J 9 6

SOUTH

♠ J

♥ K 9

♦ Q 10

♣ Q 10

On the lead of the last trump, West was forced to part with a heart—descending from either minor would have made declarer's work easy. If East discarded a club, declarer would play king and another heart to endplay East. Since the opening bid marked West for the king of clubs, declarer could not go wrong in the suit on the forced club return. At the table, East chose to discard a heart, so declarer scored three of the last four tricks with K 9 of hearts and ace of clubs.

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TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN Cinema and Theatre	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AMMAN THEATRE	
	STEEL MAGNOLIAS	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in Unveiling The Secrets Arabic	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" CRUSH GET AWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:15 CONCORD "2" SILENCE OF THE LAMPS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	JASHWA TREE Dolf Land Green Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	Today & Everyday Abu, Awad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days.	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian exiles protest at government

BONN (R) — Thousands of Iranian exiles staged peaceful demonstrations on Saturday, hailing the Mujahideen-e-Khalq opposition movement's "future president of Iran" and calling for the overthrow of the Tehran government. Maryam Rajavi, elected in October 1993 by a Mujahideen-e-Khalq dominated National Resistance Council to serve as interim president once the Islamic government is toppled, has lived in France for just under a year. The council, which organised the protests in about 16 major cities, said in a statement sent from Paris a total of 55,000 exiles joined the rallies around the world in what it called the "largest-ever by Iranians abroad." Organisers in Bonn said up to 15,000 people attended a rally to mark the uprising that brought nationalist Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq to power in 1952. He was ousted in a U.S.-run coup a year later. Police and reporters put the crowd at just over 1,500.

Suspected Algerian killer shot dead

TUNIS (R) — Algerian security forces shot dead a militant suspected of murdering an Algerian journalist of the government news agency APS, the agency said on Saturday. Said Benomhane, hunted since he escaped last March from a prison among some 1,000 kilometres south of Algiers, APS said quoting a security force statement. APS, referring to Benomhane as the presumed killer of its journalist, said the militant was shot dead as he rode on a motorbike, armed with an automatic pistol. The security operation leading to his killing was mounted shortly after journalist Mohammed Lamine Legoui was gunned down in front of his home in Bou-Saada on Wednesday. APS said then Legoui, aged 49 and father of five children, was killed by unidentified gunmen. His murder brought to at least 15 the number of journalists slain in Algeria since May 1993 in attacks blamed by the government on Islamic militants.

Israeli guns pound Lebanon ridge

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli gunners pounded a guerrilla-controlled ridge in South Lebanon on Saturday, security sources said. They said about 50 heavy artillery shells slammed into hills of Iqlim Al Toufah, a mountainous ridge held by Hizbollah guerrillas 40 kilometres south of Beirut. There were no reports of casualties. Hizbollah guerrillas use the ridge to launch hit-and-run attacks against Israel's occupation zone in the south. In a separate incident, the sources said an Israeli patrol slipped outside the zone and snatched a Lebanese man, Kassem Rihan, who was in a car driving between the market town of Nabatieh and Youghmor village. The other occupants were allowed to drive on and the patrol took Mr. Kihan to the occupation enclave, the sources said.

Police kill two in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed two suspected extremists Saturday as they hid in a park in southern Egypt, security officials said. The incident occurred in Al Badari, an island village in the Nile near Assiut, about 350 kilometres south of Cairo. The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said police were searching for Mohammed Fiyad, believed to be a leader of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah group in the Al Badari area. The officials said there was a gunbattle and Fiyad was killed. The body of an unidentified man, also believed to be an extremist, was found near him, the officials said. Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah has waged a campaign of violence since the spring of 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Fiyad's faction has been blamed for attacks on police officers and soldiers in troubled Assiut province. The latest deaths raised to at least 390 the number of people killed in 28 months of unrest, most of them policemen and extremists, government officials, Coptic Christians and foreigners also have been targeted.

Clan clashes in Mogadishu kill 2

MOGADISHU (R) — At least two people were killed and six wounded in clashes between rival clans in the lawless Somalia capital of Mogadishu on Saturday and stray shells crashed into U.N. compounds. U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair Chatta said rival militiamen fought with anti-tank rockets, cannon and small arms. Three stray shells caused minor damage to U.N. vehicles. A stray bullet wounded a Pakistani warrant officer, he said. Fighting eased in the afternoon but roadblocks and large numbers of militiamen and armoured vehicles were seen on the streets of the capital. Maj. Chatta said two Somalis were killed and four were wounded in a fire-fight between gunmen in Bardere district in southern Somalia. The clash followed an argument over a stolen U.N. vehicle.

'Bomb caused 1980 DC-9 crash'

ROME (AFP) — The crash of an Italian DC-9 carrying 81 people north of Sicily in June 1980 was caused by a bomb, according to the seventh expert enquiry into the incident. Till now some investigators believed a U.S. fighter destroyed the plane, which was flying over the island of Ustica north of Sicily, believing it was a Libyan aircraft, at a time of tension between the West and Libya. One other hypothesis was that an Israeli fighter shot it down believing it was a French cargo plane carrying enriched uranium to Iraq. In this latest enquiry, begun in September 1990, a team of 12 international experts analysed the incident from scratch and concluded in a 1200-page five volume report to Roman Judge Rosario Priore that the most realistic hypothesis was a bomb left in the plane's toilets. Evidence showed traces of TNT on the luggage. The lawyer for the victims' relatives Franco Oi Maria was not convinced by the report. "There has to be an inquiry into the credibility of the experts," he said, judging them biased. Military experts said the report confirmed their hypothesis. "We have long argued that it was a bomb aboard the DC-9," General Cesare Fazzino said in a statement.

Turkish restaurants fire-bombed in Berlin

BERLIN (R) — Six people were hurt, three seriously, in an arson attack on a Turkish restaurant in Berlin during the night, German police said on Saturday. Police said unknown attackers hurled petrol bombs through the windows of the restaurant in Berlin's Kreuzberg district at about three a.m. local time (0100 GMT). Earlier, attackers threw four petrol bombs through the windows of a Turkish restaurant in another part of the city, but the flames did not catch and no one was hurt. Germany's 1.8 million-strong Turkish community has been one of the main targets of neo-Nazi fire-bombings since racist violence surged in the aftermath of unification in 1990. The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), waging a war for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey, has also carried out attacks on Turkish targets in Germany and throughout Europe. A series of spectacular attacks on Turkish travel agencies, consulates and other establishments last summer and again in the autumn led Bonn to ban the PKK.

Turkish prime minister flies home from Paris

PARIS (AFP) — Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister, left France Saturday at the end of a three day visit. Mr. Ciller, who left from Orly airport bound for Istanbul, was the first Turkish head of government to visit France. Her visit was centred on knitting closer ties with the European Union, notably to set up a fell customs union by the end of 1995. Ms. Ciller also discussed Turkey's Kurdish separatist problem with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who said that France supported Turkey's territorial integrity, but considered the solution to the rebellion by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) could not come only by use of force and "only a political approach can find a durable solution to these problems."

Rabin to give King photos of Dome of Rock restoration

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will present His Majesty King Hussein with a photograph album showing the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, at the two leaders' historic meeting in Washington Monday, officials said.

The album has a gilt cover and bears a dedication in Hebrew and Arabic to the King from Mr. Rabin and "all those who aspire to peace."

The Washington summit will be the first public meeting between the two leaders.

A woman photographer, Varda Polack Zam, took pictures of the 18-month restoration of the golden dome which marks the site where according to tradition the Prophet Mohammed began his ascent to heaven.

Specialists from Northern Ireland covered the dome with a fine layer of 24-carat gold worth some \$1.5 million using electroplating techniques. The restoration started on Jan. 27, 1993.

The overall cost of the restoration was put at \$12 million, provided mostly by King Hussein from his personal funds.

King Hussein became custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem after King Abdullah was assassinated at the mosque on July 20, 1951.

The gilded, octagonal Dome of the Rock, the third holiest site in Islam, has adorned Jerusalem's skyline for more than 1,300 years.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were scheduled to leave Israel on Saturday for the meeting with King Hussein.

On Wednesday Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali hosted Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to a landmark meeting attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a Dead Sea hotel in Jordan.

Two days earlier delegations from Israel and Jordan opened peace negotiations on the Israeli side of the border.

Ms. Pollak-Sahm said she took slides of the Dome of the Rock during its renovation from last November to April.

"It was a very exciting project," she said. "They actually set up a gold factory outside the mosque and covered the dome with 80 kilos of 24-carat gold tiles."

She said the photographs show "Islam in all its splendour."

Inside the album is a dedication from Mr. Rabin to King Hussein in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

"To His Majesty King Hussein I of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In appreciation from the seekers and pursuers of peace," it reads.

"Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister, state of Israel."

Under the inscription is the date, 25 July 1994.

The Dome of the Rock and the adjacent silver-domed Al Aqsa Mosque are run by the Jordanian Waqf and the Palestinian Higher Islamic Council.

Jordanian experts visited the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat Friday to assess plans for building a road linking Jordan with Egypt via Israel, according to Israeli state television.

The officials refused to be filmed but were seen travelling to the Israeli-Egyptian border. They later held talks with Israeli transport ministry experts, the television said.

Israel and Jordan agreed a series of draft accords towards establishing peace Wednesday, including opening their border to foreigners at Eilat and Aqaba.

Baghdad denies role in Khoei's accident

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Baghdad on Saturday denied liquidating the son of the late Grand Ayatollah Abdul Qasim Al Khoei in a "staged" road accident as part of its campaign to suppress dissent among Iraq's largest Muslim sect.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the governor of Najaf province as saying that Mohammad Taghi Al Khoei was killed Thursday when his car went out of control and collided with a truck.

The governor rejected as "groundless" the allegation by a Shi'ite dissident group that the collision was prearranged by the Sunni-dominated government, the state run agency said.

The INA report was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Khoei's nephew Yousef Al Khoei charged Friday that the death was "an organised assassination attempt which has many precedents in Iraq."

Yousef Al Khoei, who is also a spokesman for the Al Khoei Foundation, said the crash occurred on the Najaf-Karbala highway as his uncle made his weekly pilgrimage to the sacred Shi'ite city of Karbala.

He said authorities blocked off the road after the crash and torched the car to destroy all evidence.

The car's two other occupants, Mohammad Taghi Al Khoei's brother-in-law Amin Khalkhali and his six-year-old son, were also killed.

Other witnesses had also testified that the accident was staged, the relatives added.

A statement from the Al Khoei Foundation in London also blamed Baghdad for the deaths and said it followed "two years of constant harassment by the government of Saddam Hussein."

"The three passengers and the driver of their car were set up in an accident. The car was totally burned and the bodies mutilated on the highway," the statement said.

people are vulnerable to revenge," wrote commentator Nahum Barnea in the Yediot Aharonot daily. "Israel successfully kidnapped Mustafa Dibrani, but the vengeance, this week, was very painful."

Jewish leaders in Panama said they strongly suspect sabotage caused the crash of a commuter plane this week that killed 21 people, most of them Jewish.

They offered no proof but said they had unspecified information indicating that the plane was blown up Tuesday in a bid to sabotage the Middle East peace process.

Investigators have not publicly said sabotage caused the air crash, but privately concede that the evidence points in that direction.

Carlos Augusto Herrera, a special government investigator for the case, told reporters officials are searching for the identity of an unidentified victim believed to be from Lebanon.



REGENT MEETS INONU: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday meets with Turkish Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Erdal Inonu (centre), who is visiting Jordan at the head of a parliamentary delegation (see page 3). Talks between Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday covers Jordanian-Turkish relations and the Middle East peace process. Several parliament members from Jordan attended the talks (Petra photo)

New Jersey murder suspect confessed, police chief says

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian detained on suspicion of killing his wife in the United States has confessed to having committed the murder and has been referred to the prosecutor general for investigations and possible trial in Jordan, the chief of police, Lieutenant-General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan, said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Adwan, head of the Public Security Department (PSD), told the Jordan Times that Mohammad Abuequa, 45, who was arrested on Thursday, confessed Sunday to the murder of his 40-year-old American wife, Nihal, in the United States.

"During questioning, the suspect confessed and said: 'Yes, I killed my wife'," Gen. Adwan said.

Mr. Abuequa's wife Nihal, of Turkish origin, is believed to have been strangled to death on July 3 ahead of a court hearing in the U.S. on custody of the couple's children, Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3.

Nihal Abuequa's body was found on July 6 in her apartment in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, and U.S. authorities say Mr. Abuequa

is suspected of killing her before fleeing to Jordan. The father and the two children arrived in Amman on July 6.

Gen. Adwan said when police raided Mr. Abuequa's hideout, he was alone and did not show any motion or offer any resistance.

"He did not resist the arrest, and he did not look surprised upon seeing police," the general said.

Gen. Adwan would not release any details of where the suspect was arrested or how he was arrested or who led police to his whereabouts.

Reports quoting unnamed officials say Mr. Abuequa's mother Samiha guided authorities to the suspect's hideout in an old house in Jabal Taj. The officials said Mr. Abuequa had intended to surrender and asked his mother to inform police of his whereabouts.

Lt. Gen. Adwan denied that the suspect was found in Jabal Al Taj but declined to elaborate.

He said that no foreign authority had asked the security to hand over the suspect, adding that the PSD has done its job of arresting the suspect and that "the matter will be for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to decide."

"Our job is to send the suspect to the prosecutor and our job ends here," he added.

Gen. Adwan told the Jordan Times that the two children were staying with the suspect's sister and would remain there until further progress in the case.

Ultimately, he said, the Sharia court will determine the custody of the children.

None of the Abuequa's family members was available to comment on the issue.

The case assumed a large magnitude after three New Jersey lawmakers asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to ask His Majesty King Hussein to intervene to have Mr. Abuequa extradited to the U.S.

Jordanian officials say it is unlikely that the suspect will be handed to the United States since there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.

However, "it is a political decision that should be made by King Hussein," said an official source.

Legal experts say Jordan would like to try Mr. Abuequa in Jordan since he still retains his Jordanian nationality.

Arab envoys freed in Algeria

TUNIS (Agencies) — One of two Arab ambassadors freed after being kidnapped in Algeria said Saturday the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) had abducted them.

"It was the GIA which kidnapped us," Yemeni envoy Ali Askar told Reuters in Tunis by telephone.

The partitions of the GIA could have killed us, but they accompanied us to the outskirts of Algiers before giving us a car to return home," Mr. Askar said from his home in the outskirts of the Algerian capital.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted Algerian security sources on Friday as saying Mr. Askar and Hilal Ben Salem Al Siyabi of Oman, their Moroccan driver and a Yemeni guest who was travelling with them when they were abducted on July 15 had all been found alive and well.

It gave no precise details about where they were found or the manner of their reappearance.

Meanwhile an Italian was reported missing in Algeria by his family Saturday, raising fears that another foreigner may have fallen victim to extremist violence.

Ferruccio Franchini disappeared July 3 while driving between Ghardaia and Hassi R'mel, two southern Algerian towns. The car was found at the town of Berriane. There was no trace of Mr. Franchini.

The family launched an appeal Saturday in the Algerian press "to all the Algerian people" to find Mr. Franchini, who was working in Hassi R'mel for the Rome-based Benini hospital equipment company.

There was no immediate confirmation by authorities on the disappearance, which comes amid worsening anti-foreigner violence.

Seven Italians and seven East Europeans have been murdered this month, bringing the total number of foreigners killed by extremists since last September to 51.

The killings sparked a new exodus of foreigners, whose expertise and investment is vital to the military-backed government's hopes to revive the economy and ease tensions.

The circumstances surrounding the discovery of the Arab diplomats were not disclosed. The Algerian press has speculated that the disappearance may have had roots in Yemen's recent civil war.

No ransom demand was made, Arab diplomats said, and there was no claim of responsibility. Exiled leaders of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front condemned the act.

A journalist who saw the ambassadors Saturday after they met Algeria's foreign minister said they showed no signs of fatigue and made no statement. Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Aziz Sebba referred to their "liberation" without spelling out the circumstances.

The two envoys, their driver and guest went missing while on a trip to a rural beauty spot. Their burnt-out car was subsequently found in the Khemis Al Kechna area, 30 kilometres southeast of Algiers.

The route passes through an area notorious for Islamic militant attacks.

Mr. Askar said he and the others had been well treated by their captors.

"We were well treated and were freed after having met with the leader of the GIA, Bid Abdullah Ahmad, who explained to us that his movement wants to establish Islamic Khilafa (Islamic statehood) throughout the Arab World as well as throughout the Islamic World," Mr. Askar said.

with long waits at the checkpoint clashed with Israeli troops, dragging settlers and Palestinian police into the conflict.

The demonstration Friday was organised by five Palestinian groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO self-rule accord signed on May 4, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

It was preceded by a huge rally at Gaza's Al Yarmouk stadium, during which Israeli and U.S. flags were set ablaze.

Speakers denounced the PNA's "passivity" over the Erez clashes, and also condemned the visit to Gaza Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Israel reopened its border with Gaza Friday, but only 3,226 Palestinians out of the 22,000 holding Israeli work permits turned up at dawn, a Palestinian police officer said.

COLUMN

Costly taxi ride proves boon for Dutch tourist

LAUREL, MD. (AP) — Sasa Nikolic says he got taken for a ride by an unscrupulous New York cab driver. Now he's benefiting from his misadventure. The 24-year-old tourist from the Netherlands found himself practically broke earlier this month after he paid the driver \$272 for an eight-hour sightseeing tour of New York — and \$472 the next day to take him to Washington. Mr. Nikolic said the cabbie, whom he couldn't identify, told him cab and bus fare to Washington were about the same, but a cab was faster. The truth is, bus fare would have been \$25.95. The cabbie dropped him off at a Laurel, MD., hotel, outside Washington, on the third day of what was supposed to be a month-long trip to the United States. There, Mr. Nikolic met A.B. Miller, who lives near the hotel, heard the tourist's story and started calling TV stations and newspapers. Offers of help for the picture-frame maker began pouring in. He has received free airfare to California and Florida, special tours of Florida theme parks, more than \$300 in cash, free hotel rooms and — no more cabbies — complimentary limousine rides wherever he goes. Mr. Nikolic has been invited to a party held by pro-wrestler and actor Hulk Hogan and is scheduled to meet former Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan at a Minor League baseball game Tuesday. "You bet I'm overwhelmed," said Mr. Nikolic, who now has a travelling companion — Miller. The two flew to Florida on July 15. Mr. Nikolic said he and the cabbie did not discuss a specific fare. By law, New York cabbies can charge either a fare negotiated in advance or a rate of \$2.50 per mile (1.6 kilometres). At that rate, the 237-mile (279-kilometre) New York-Washington trip should have cost \$592.50.

Military school ordered to admit women

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AFP) — A military academy was ordered Friday to admit the first woman into its cadet ranks, ending more than 150 years of an all-male policy. Judge Weston Houck's decision would admit Shannon Faulkner, 19, to the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina where women have previously only been allowed to attend classes as visiting students. Ms. Faulkner had filed a sex discrimination suit against the Citadel, which had accepted her application mistaking her for a male student and then rejected her when discovering the error. The Citadel has threatened to make Ms. Faulkner follow all the academy codes strictly — including shaving her head — if forced to admit her. The judge ordered Ms. Faulkner's immediate admittance to be followed up by plans for accommodating more women to be completed by 1995.

S. African siamese twin's heart stops for hour

PRETORIA (R) — The heart of a South African siamese twin, separated from her sister a day after their birth a week ago, stopped beating for an hour but was successfully restarted, her father said. Renier Krige said he and his wife, Eloise, were preparing to leave Pretoria's H.F. Verwoerd Hospital at noon when he noticed something was wrong with little Donne. "I was looking at the heart monitor when I saw it started to give strange indications. I immediately alerted the hospital personnel," he told Reuters. It took an hour to get the heart beating again. As doctors fought to save her, respirators kept Donne alive. Mr. Krige said there was no danger of brain damage. Donne and her sister, Monique, were born joined at the stomach. The girls, part of a set of triplets, were born eight weeks prematurely. Their sister, Carmen, continues to do well and is expected home in about four weeks. "Our emotions are doing a rollercoaster ride," said Mr. Krige. "One day things are excellent and the next there is a crisis. It is just our faith which has kept us going."